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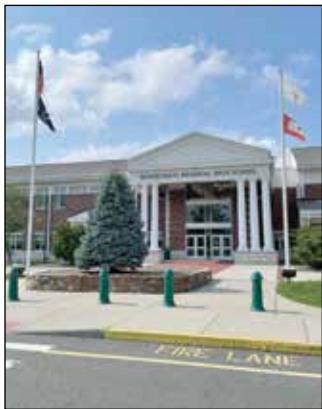
APRIL 3, 2025

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School Committee approves resolution for more state funding

By Kristin Rivers
Editor
krivers@turley.com

WILBRAHAM - The School Committee unanimously approved on March 20 a resolution to support FY26 State Budget Education Funding Measures.



The resolution concerns Project 232, a coalition of districts formed after 232 of 319 districts in the state were classified as Minimum Aid Districts, meaning they would receive minimum state aid for the 2026 fiscal year.

Superintendent Dr. John Provost first brought up Project 232--originally called Project 211--back on Feb. 4 during the Budget Roundtable with state officials and

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Turley photos by Kristin Rivers

From the left, Bob Howarth, former Hampden town moderator and former Planning Board chair, Judge Michael Ponsor, Judge Michael Callan, associate judge for the Superior Court and also a former town attorney for Hampden, and Pil Callan from Doherty Law Firm pose in a group photo.

Judge Ponsor visits for author talk

By Kristin Rivers
Editor
krivers@turley.com

HAMPDEN - Judge Michael Ponsor, a district judge in The United States District Court, Western region in Springfield, held an author talk in the Town House Auditorium on March 22.

The talk was sponsored by the Friends of the Hampden Free Public Library, who also provided refreshments. This month, the library read "The One-Eyed Judge" as part of their Saturday Book Club.

"The One-Eyed Judge" is about the Honorable U.S. District Judge David Norcross, a federal judge presiding over the case of a literature professor accused of receiving child pornography.

The book is the second in The Judge Norcross Novels, which are "The Hanging Judge," "The One-Eyed Judge" and "Point of Order."

Ponsor, who has been a judge for over 40 years, became a magistrate judge in January 1984 and did this for a decade, followed by being an active U.S. District Court Judge for 20 years and

a senior judge since 2014.

He also presided over the state's first capital case in over 50 years in 2000 of serial killer Kristen Gilbert, a former nurse convicted of four murders and two attempted murders of patients admitted to the Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Northampton. She was sentenced to four consecutive life terms without the possibility of parole plus 20 years and transferred to the Federal Medical Center, Carswell, a federal prison in Fort Worth, Texas, where she remains today.

It was this case and ex-

perience that inspired Ponsor's first book, "The Hanging Judge."

Throughout the talk, Ponsor shared his legal background, journey to becoming an author, read excerpts and held a Q & A, with questions ranging from who would play the judge if the book got made into a movie and if there is oversight of judges to what was the quickest verdict ever and closing for a case and any regrets in the real-life cases he's presided over.

He also confirmed he's

Please see **AUTHOR**, page 8

Renna is hard at work serving Vets

By Kristin Rivers
Editor
krivers@turley.com

WILBRAHAM - Since succeeding Jered Sasen as director of Veterans Services in Wilbraham, Patrick Renna has gotten right to work to support the town's veterans.

Renna's first day was on Jan. 13, understanding he had "big shoes to fill because Jered did a great job," also receiving support from Sasen as he started his role.

He also met Sasen a few years ago for his own VA benefits and had a great conversation with him.

"I left that day just thinking, 'This is like a really cool job.' You're not in the service anymore, but you're still out there. Every day is really focused on helping other veterans and I just thought that was really neat," Renna said.

After retiring from the Air Force a couple years later and getting a job as a civilian with them, a veteran friend in town sent Renna the job posting and encouraged him to apply.

"He's like, 'I think this would be perfect for you.' He's like, 'You are always about helping people. He's like, 'I just think this is a good fit.' So, I threw my name in the hat and got to interview for it," Renna said.

Since taking on the role, Renna has been meeting with veterans and recently went before the Select Board to discuss the HERO Act, which was passed last year.

Please see **RENNA**, page 4

'Cabaret' holds smashing opening night

By Noelle Hisgen
Correspondent

WILBRAHAM - The Wilbraham United Players recently opened their first week of "Cabaret," kicking off with a smashing opening night on March 28.

The show takes place in the 1930s at the Kit Kat Club in Berlin, where Germany is transitioning from post-World War I economic depression to an underground totalitarian regime with Adolf Hitler and the Nazi Party at the center of it all.

Clifford Bradshaw, a struggling American writer, enters the Kit Kat Club overseen by the mysterious and omniscient master of ceremonies, the Emcee. Cliff meets

the star of the "Cabaret," Sally Bowles, where the two of them blossom a dreamy romance together.

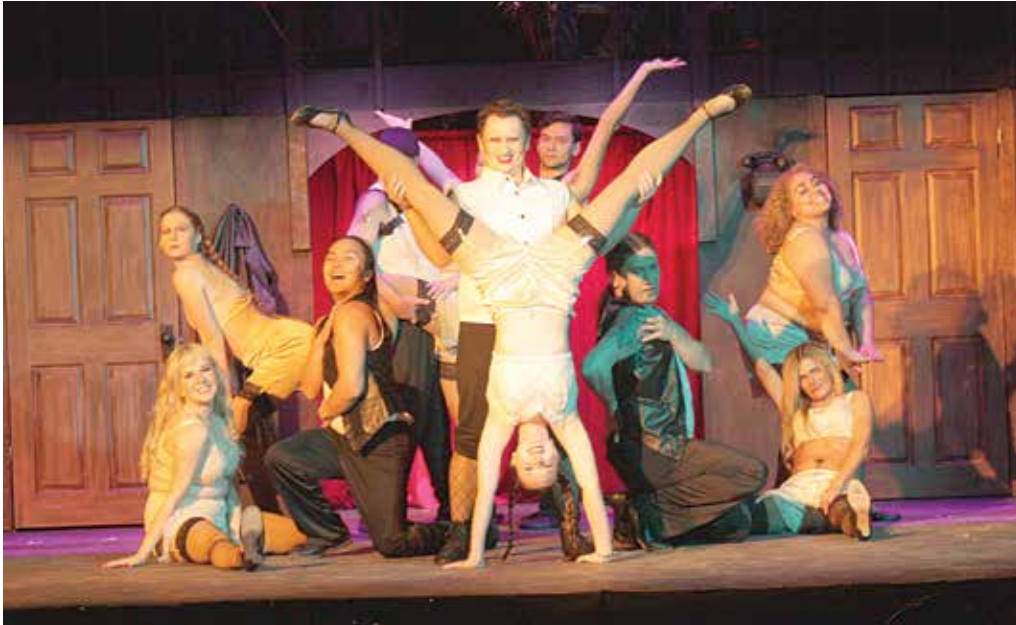
Unfortunately, the bright lights of the cabaret start to dim as Ernst, Cliff's first German friend, reveals to be part of the Nazi Party, and Herr Schultz, a boarder at Fraulein Schneider's guest house, becomes a victim of anti-Semitic hate crimes.

It turns into a rush for Cliff to escape Germany and back to America at once, but Sally is unsure if she can give up her illicit cabaret lifestyle. With large group dance numbers and powerful vocals, "Cabaret" is ready to keep you on the edge of your seat throughout each number from start to finish.

The show features Jayse Matrishion as the Emcee, Carolyn Averill as Sally Bowles, Christopher Morrey as Clifford Bradshaw, Christine Greene as Fraulein Schneider, Doug Lebel as Herr Schultz, Jami Wilson as Fraulein Kost/Fritzie, Ben Crowe as Ernst Ludwig, Julia Adamo as Rosie, Shelly Capen as Lulu, Meaghan Snapp as Frenchie, Noelle Hisgen as Texas, Naidelyn Cruz as Helga, Zachary Ciano as Victor, Tully Russell as Bobby, John Woytowicz as Herman/Max, and Antonio Mutti as Hans/Rudy.

"Cabaret" is directed by Deb Trimble, with musical direction by Benjamin Mabrey,

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Turley photo by Noelle Hisgen

The cast of "Cabaret" in their opening number, "Willkommen."

Selectboards holds joint meeting on regional agreement

By Kristin Rivers
Editor
krivers@turley.com

HAMPDEN - The Select boards of both member towns in the Hampden-Wilbraham School District have yet to reach a resolution on a possible amendment that would make Wilbraham Middle School a regional school.

As Hampden Selectboard Chair Don Davenport explained, this "would change a lot of things in the agree-

ment" including the leases.

An item of note: the regional agreement was pushed back to the Town Meetings this fall when it will go before both communities for a vote.

Davenport offered three potential options to consider: Offer no amendment.

An amendment designating grade assignments without treating WMS as a district middle school.

An amendment designating grade assignments and treating WMS as a district school with an appropriation

of capital cost plan and carve out some pre-existing conditions.

The town of Wilbraham could sell WMS to the region for \$1, making both towns joint owners and giving Hampden 20% equity if anything happened in the future, giving the town a stake in doing capital repairs.

Davenport focused on fairness, mentioning the closure of Thornton W. Burgess Middle School.

"The fairness of this ended eight years ago when they

decided to close the school because it became unfair to the Hampden kids who were forced to go to outside of their town to another school. It was unfair to the Wilbraham kids because they were already in an overcrowded school, educationally overcrowded school," Davenport said.

Davenport said the closure was also unfair to the administrators and educators.

"So, the fairness argument is, everyone, it was unfair to everybody. Here we are eight years later trying to resolve

something to make it at least palatable until we decide what to do because we all know that, eventually, we're going to have to do something much larger than this," Davenport said.

Wilbraham Select Board Chair Sue Bunnell responded to how this goes back to "when we were trying to ensure that all the middle school age kids actually had got to experience a middle school program" and the reduction in class sizes at TWB "rapidly turned that into something

that just wasn't an option."

"So, I would just say that there were certainly parents who wanted to ensure that their kids had a middle school experience, and that was a lot of the reasoning..." Bunnell said.

Selectboard Member John Flynn stepped in after Davenport reiterated his earlier point, noting "choices were available."

"However, through a com-

Please see **SELECTBOARD**, page 8

Selectboard provides Master Plan Update

Also, North Road crosswalk

By Kristin Rivers
Editor
krivers@turley.com

HAMPDEN - The Selectboard provided an update on the Master Plan during their March 24 meeting.

The recap comes after a Master Plan Review Session was held at Thornton W. Burgess Middle School on March 18, where residents had the opportunity to hear from town officials and Planning Committee members on the goals and recommended actions to shape the next chapter of Hampden. Also, to share ideas and ask questions.

The Hampden Master Plan is a blueprint to help outline the town's future, guiding decision-making on policies, investments and community initiatives. It was put together through resident input and designed to evolve as the town grows and changes.

The ideas--or commitments--include clean water and clean air by protecting natural resources, preserved open space to keep the rural character of Hampden intact while, also, planning for smart growth, energy independence by investing in renewable energy and sustainable practices, sophisticated technology infrastructure through ensuring high-speed connectivity and modern digital resources and world-class education by strengthening the schools to prepare students for success in an evolving world.

To learn more about the Master Plan, email masterplan@hampdenma.gov or visit the Hampden MA Master Plan Facebook page.

Chair Don Davenport said the session was the second public forum on this and it

was "pretty well attended."

"About 35 people were there and it should be completed by the middle of April and we hope to have it--at least--for distribution by Town Meeting time," Davenport said. "It's eight chapters and the chapters are housing, land use, economic development, public facilities, open space and recreation, resiliency and climate and transportation and mobility."

Davenport said there were charts with what the actions are that need to be taken or recommended actions to be taken.

"Hopefully, I'll have them put up in the Town Hall here if anybody wants to stop by in the meantime to look at them," Davenport said. "But, it was a pretty good discussion and the people...what they do is they go to each station and they look at the plan, they put notes on there and the consultant is reviewing those notes and including them in the people's thoughts and all that stuff. So, it's moving along well."

Davenport added this.

"The thing to think about is that any of the recommendations or actions are just that. They're recommendation actions. Everything changes. So, you try to get things done as you can get them done," Davenport said. "And one of the big things we're going to need is people who are willing to get on boards and committees and commissions to help us implement these things over the next 10 years. So, that's the update on that."

Selectboard Member John Flynn shared he was disappointed that the meeting wasn't held on Zoom in addition to the in-person gathering at TWB.

"I understand it was more of a poster board type thing, but I still think there was a

decent component that people wouldn't mind reviewing it either live or afterwards anyhow," Flynn said.

During the Selectmen's Reports, Flynn also brought up the crosswalk at North Road after bumping into someone at the senior center who asked about this.

"I think that was part of where we were hoping there was extra casino money and then there wasn't," Flynn said.

When Selectboard Member Craig Rivest asked if this was about putting up flashing signs, Flynn clarified it was about putting up another sign at the crossing.

"I think the total is in the 20, 25 range by the time you put all the work into it. I know we did ask Mark," Flynn said. "He did get a quote on it, but I did say to that person part of the consideration will be, also, maybe the need for it isn't as great when the town hall moves. But, it is in one place. You do switch from one sidewalk system to the other."

Flynn said he was going "to keep on the burner" for this item.

"We did talk about it and it kind of fell off the radar," Flynn said.

Rivest recalled how that was submitted with a plan for the Casino Mitigation Funds but that was denied.

"So, that was the plan to use that. We thought it was a sure shot back then," Rivest said.

Flynn added this.

"We thought we also had extra money and then we found out that...probably going to use some of the money for something else. One of the MDP things or something," Flynn said.

Rivest and Flynn also noted there is still school crossing in that area too.

Planning Board recommends zoning bylaw amendments for ADUs

Will be voted on at Annual Town Meeting

By Kristin Rivers
Editor
krivers@turley.com

WILBRAHAM - The Planning Board recommended zoning bylaw amendments for accessory dwelling units on March 5.

The proposed amendments will now go to the Annual Town Meeting to be voted on.

The decision comes after two prior public hearings were held on Jan. 8 and Feb. 12 on a proposed zoning bylaw amendment to regulate ADUs by amending sections 1.3, 3.4, 3.9, 2.15 and 4.10 to conform to the state's new ADU law that went into effect in February. The law affects all communities in Massachusetts and is not unique to one specific town or city.

An accessory dwelling unit--or ADU--is a self-contained housing unit such as an in-law apartment or backyard cottage that is inclusive of sleeping, cooking and sanitary facilities on the same lot as a principal dwelling.

Meeting Recap

Chair James Rooney explained the third public hearing was a lively discussion amongst the board and with residents who shared their thoughts and questions, with the board deciding to move forward with the bylaw as discussed with minor changes based on comments from Margaret Hurley at the State Attorney General's Office and Planning Director Michelle Buck.

"The majority of the board felt it was a common-sense approach to address a state law that greatly impacts local communities' ability to regulate their communities as they see fit," Rooney said.

The biggest item Buck shared with the board concerned site plan review requirements, with Rooney elaborating on what this is.

"Under our current ADU bylaw, a special permit is required, and the project can actually be denied. The site plan review process as allowed by state direction and agreed to by Town Counsel, while a lesser standard of review, will enable the board to have the ability to assist the town in implementing this bylaw, by allowing the neighbors to know and understand the changes that their neighborhoods will be experiencing," Rooney said.

"It will be a set of minor requirements being reviewed including zoning dimensional requirements, Title V compliance, stormwater review and reviews by police and fire departments. It will be a relatively easy process and will allow us to keep track of ADU development in our town. For details, see the text of the ADU bylaw and the related site plan review section of the bylaw in Section 13.3 of the Zoning Bylaw; not all parts apply to ADUs."

The current zoning bylaws can be found on the town website at www.wilbraham-ma.gov/766/Zoning.

On the comments from Hurley, Rooney said they "were not overly critical of our bylaw" and focused on further clarifying several items, such as zoning districts where ADUs are allowed by right, clearing up regulations, wording and deleting any duplicate items.

"A majority of the board took the comments and felt our bylaw reflected the requirements as put forward by the state. Minor changes were made to address the comments: deleted requirement for doors to be on the side or rear of the structure, changed wording related to parking and added clarification as to which site plan requirement will not apply," Rooney said.

With the bylaw amendment, Rooney explained there would be "little to no impact" on current ADUs in Wilbraham.

"In some cases, this will allow them to rent these units out to anyone if they have an

existing ADU. Before this, the occupants had to have a familial relationship to the homeowner," Rooney said.

As for what happens if the bylaw amendments are approved at the Annual Town Meeting, Rooney said the next steps would be this.

"The Board will entertain any applicants for ADUs," Rooney said.

Rooney added residents will have an opportunity to learn more about the bylaw and proposed changes after the warrant is finalized and the final text and exhibit designations are set.

"It will be posted on the Planning Board site on the Town of Wilbraham website," Rooney said.

Coming Up Next...

As for what other topics are expected in the future, Rooney shared a few items of note.

"We also will be putting forth amendments to our solar bylaws regarding concerns from citizens who approached the board and we will be proposing a zoning bylaw that will allow used car sales as an accessory use to an existing business. This was also brought to the Planning Board by members of the community, who worked with us over many meetings and months to allow this to happen," Rooney said.

"Lastly, the board has been discussing a municipal plan. It is on our radar, and we will be addressing this issue in the coming meetings."

The next Planning Board meeting is on April 2 at 5:30 p.m. at town hall.

"As always, we encourage members of the community to attend the meetings," Rooney said.

Friends of Hampden Senior Citizens announce upcoming events

HAMPDEN - The Friends of the Hampden Senior Center would like to announce two events coming up - PLEASE SAVE THESE DATES!!

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

We will accept all cloth items, bedding, clothing, shoes, coats, purses, jewelry, books, small kitchen items such as dishes, toasters, glassware, books, puzzles, small appliances, small tables and sports equipment.

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

WE are looking forward, once again, seeing you. Your support for the Hampden Senior

Center is greatly appreciated.

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

This event will be FREE to all of you. Please bring your documents and papers that need to be shredded and they will be taken care of on the premises.

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

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

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

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

Boston Marathon Stories & History at the Wilbraham Library

WILBRAHAM-- Best-selling author Paul Clerici will share stories about the iconic Boston Marathon at the Wilbraham Public Library on Monday, April 7 at 6 p.m. He will describe traditions such as the race's connection between the Greek god Zeus, the evolution of media coverage and cultural exchange, the statues and monuments along the course, including the first woman to finish the Boston Marathon, and

much more. Clerici's storytelling is supplemented with a multimedia presentation of images from his books, including some from rare collections and some never seen before.

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

Chicopee Register

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Spring ahead with new, exciting WPL adult events and activities

By Amanda Munson
Correspondent

WILBRAHAM - Looking for a new activity or wanting to belong to an intriguing group that meets weekly this spring? At the Wilbraham Public Library, the warmer weather brings fresh ideas of engaging experiences that encourage adults to want to come back for more.

Adult Services Librarian Emilie Lang discussed her department's events, why patrons should explore the StoryWalk and how she personally utilizes the library. When motivating the community to visit the library—inside and outside—Lang brought up the unique detail that not all libraries have.

“Visit the StoryWalk! A lot of our regular patrons use the StoryWalk, but it's still a hidden gem for many. The path starts on the east side of the library and is maintained by volunteers. It's a beautiful place to sit in the shade, take a quick stroll, and enjoy the picture book along the path.

When the weather permits, we do have some outdoor programs,” Lang said.

Organizing the next few months, Lang referred to programs that have been under wraps and haven't been revealed yet, so stay tuned.

“There's a variety of in-person and virtual events coming up this Spring. Our virtual author talks take place year-round, and we love hearing from authors across a broad spectrum of genres and subjects. Participants can submit questions to ask the authors, so it's a fun way to participate from home. We have several book clubs that meet monthly or bi-monthly, including the History Book Club, Evening Book Discussion, Cookbook Club, and more,” Lang said. “Assistant Director Mary Bell will be hosting an Intro to Ancestry Library Edition workshop in May for those interested in genealogy. I'm also excited to host some new presenters this season. Pianist Richard Hughes will be at the library to discuss the history of si-

lent movies and provide live musical accompaniment to iconic scenes, and Travel Expert Matt Davis will be discussing natural disasters and our cultural and sociological responses to them.”

Adult patrons can expect thrilling summer events too, like a lecture of The History of Emancipation and June-teenth, a presentation about the Six Power Canals of the Chicopee River and the Collins Canal in Wilbraham and a Sound Healing Session with crystal singing bowls.

Lang also encouraged patrons to get reading.

“We like to encourage reading throughout the year, but especially during the summer. It can be tough for people to stay active with their reading, especially with vacation & travel plans. The Spring/Summer is the perfect time to get connected & try new things!” Lang said. “The library Summer Reading Challenge and HWRSD's One Book One Community are both great ways to keep up with your reading over the

summer, but for those who aren't big readers, we also have so much more to offer. If you're looking to get outside this summer, check out all the items you can borrow from the library. We have horse-shoes, bocce, cornhole, metal detectors and more.”

Ending with a few words to all those who come to the WPL, Lang said this.

“Thank you for your support! The library is a community resource, so we are happy to see familiar faces. We always welcome new faces as well, so stop by to check out everything the library offers,” Lang said.

Upcoming events at the library include The Annual Wilbraham Friends of the Library Book Sale starting on May 7 through 10. The Boston Marathon History & Stories occurs on April 7 at 6 p.m., Paint a Tote Bag on April 19 at 11 a.m., and The Golden Age of Silent Movies on May 12 at 6 p.m.

To learn more about upcoming events, visit wilbrahamlibrary.org.

Junior Women's Club to hold Annual Bunny Breakfast

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

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

The Easter Bunny will be in attendance to visit and take photos with the kids. Guests can enjoy Face

painting, Temporary Tattoos and lots of Arts and Crafts activities!

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

The GFWC Wilbraham Junior Women's Club would like to thank our sponsor Luso Federal Credit Union! Their representatives will be distributing Easter-themed items to all of the children!

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

For more information, please contact Brenda Willard at BrendaWillard@aol.com or (413) 279-1394.

Friends Quilt Raffle

WILBRAHAM - Help raise funds for the Friends of Wilbraham Seniors who raise funds for the needs of Wilbraham's senior citizens.

Help us by purchasing tickets for the raffle of a queen-size quilt made by the Wilbraham Senior Center's Quilting Group. Drawing is May 2 at the senior center.

You do not have to be there to win.

You can buy tickets at the Wilbraham Public Library on the following Saturdays: April 5 and April 26. Hours are 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Hope to see you there!

You can also contact friends@01095 to arrange to buy tickets.

Final Weekend to see 'Cabaret'

WILBRAHAM - This weekend is the final chance to see the Wilbraham United Players production of “Cabaret.”

Set in 1930s Berlin, “Cabaret” explores the intertwining lives of performers and patrons at the Kit Kat Klub, against the backdrop of a society on the brink of profound change. The story delves into themes of love, politics, and the complexities of human

nature, all set to a memorable score.

Performances are scheduled for April 4 and 5 at 7:30 p.m. and April 6 at 2:30pm at the Fellowship Hall Stage at Wilbraham United Church. Reserved seating, including cabaret tables, are available.

Tickets can be purchased through the Wilbraham United Players website: www.wilbrahamunitedplayers.org/buy-tickets.

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krivers@turley.com

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Congratulations to Teacher, Savanna Feeney, for receiving the March 2025 MVP Award

Nomination Description:
Teacher, Savanna Feeney, is a remarkable educator at Stony Hill Elementary School and has been awarded the Hampden Wilbraham Partners for Youth MVP (Most Valuable Person) Award. This nomination is a testament to her unwavering commitment to her students’ academic success and their social-emotional well-being.

Every day, Savanna goes above and beyond in her role as an educator. She creates a nurturing environment where students feel valued and supported. Her dedication is evident, not only in her teaching methods, but also in the way she connects with each student on a personal level.

She takes the time to understand their individual needs, fostering both their academic growth and emotional resilience. One particular incident exemplifies her extraordinary character and quick thinking.

During lunch, a student began choking on food. Recognizing the urgency of the situation, Savanna observed the distress signals from her students who were calling for help. Without hesitation, she assessed the situation and immediately performed the Heimlich ma-



neuver on the choking child. Despite having no formal training in first aid or emergency response, she acted decisively and effectively. Her swift actions dislodged the obstruction from the student’s throat, ensuring his safety and well-being.

This incident not only highlights her ability to remain calm under pressure but also showcases her instinctive care for her students’ lives. The impact of Savanna’s actions extends far beyond that single event. Her willingness to step up in critical moments demonstrates a profound sense of responsibility towards her students’ health and safety.

She serves as a role model, teaching them valuable lessons about compassion, courage, and community support. For these reasons, Savanna deserves recognition through the Hampden Wilbraham Partners for Youth MVP Award.

Her dedication to education, combined with her heroic actions during an emergency, truly embodies what it means to be an outstanding teacher and mentor.

To read more about the MVP Campaign, please visit HWP4Y.org/mvp. You can submit your nominations online or via email to Coalition Director, Bree Berneche, at bberneche@hwrdsd.org.



OPRO hosting spring concert April 4

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

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

Our concerts are FREE and family-friendly, thanks in part to the generosity of the Wilbraham Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency. Members of the Minnechaug Key Club will also assist concert goers at the door. Please join OPRO on this musical journey across Italy!

Teen Grief Support Night

WILBRAHAM - Rick’s Place is offering a Teen-Only Grief Support Night for high school students who have experienced the death of a caregiver, sibling, or other significant person.

We understand how lonely grief can be as a teen. The program will offer pizza, memory activities, and an opportunity to connect with other teens who understand in a safe, laid-back setting. Come to share

your experience or just be around others who get it. There is no cost to attend. Registration is required. Last day to register is Friday, April 11. Call Rick’s Place at (413) 279-2010 or email info@ricksplacema.org. Time: 6 to 7:30 p.m. Location: Pope Francis Preparatory School, 99 Wendover Rd, Springfield, MA 01118

Paul Clerici coming to WPL

WILBRAHAM - Come join bestselling author Paul Clerici at Wilbraham Public Library, 25 Crane Park Dr., Wilbraham, on Mon., April 7, 2025, at 6 p.m., as he shares stories about the iconic Boston Marathon. He has written extensively on the race in the “Boston Marathon History by the Mile,” “Images of Modern America: The Boston Marathon,” and newly released “Boston Marathon Traditions and Lore” books.

The award-winning writer takes you through the colorful 26.2-mile journey – mile by mile, town by town, story by story. With his unique vast array of experience and knowledge as one who has run Boston 23 times and has been covering it for over 35 years now, he brings the great race to life through informative, humorous, and enlightening detail that includes stories about every moment, land-

mark, and portion of the course – the very beginnings of the race in Ashland; various start lines in Hopkinton; the year in which a train cut through the race in Framingham; the Scream Tunnel of women at Wellesley College; the Johnny Kelley statue in Newton; different finish lines in Boston; and much more – from its start in 1897 to present day. His storytelling is supplemented with a multimedia presentation of images from his books, which include some from rare collections and some never seen before!

His storytelling is supplemented with a multimedia presentation of images from his books, which include some from rare collections and some never seen before! Books will be available to purchase and can be signed by the author (www.paulclerici.com; <https://www.facebook.com/paul.clerici.12>)

St. Cecilia Women’s Club April Meeting

WILBRAHAM – The St. Cecilia Women’s Club will host their next meeting on April 8. It will be an Evening of Reflection with Fr. Douglas McGonagle. Liturgy is at 5:30 p.m. followed by soup & sand-

wiches at 6 p.m. Fr. McGonagle will be our guest speaker following mass and a light supper. Hope you can make it. Please bring children’s clothing to this meeting for infants and toddlers in need.

Garden Club meets April 17

HAMPDEN – The April meeting of the Hampden Garden Club is on April 17 at 7 p.m. at Academy Hall on

Main St. Becky Sadlowski will speak on growing colorful, home grown cut flowers. Becky and her husband founded Rooted Flowers, a specialty cut flower farm in Agawam.

Open Water Safety

WILBRAHAM/HAMPDEN - As summer approaches, it’s the perfect time to ensure everyone knows how to swim and stays safe around open water. Whether you’re a beginner or need a refresher, swimming lessons can make a big difference.

Remember, always swim with a buddy, wear life jackets when necessary and stay vigilant about water conditions. A message from your Wilbraham and Hampden fire & life safety educators.



Turley photo by Kristin Rivers
Patrick Renna, the new director of Veterans Services for the town of Wilbraham, pictured here in his office.

RENNA from page 1

“So, a whole lot of the stuff doesn’t really affect the town proper, but the part that does is the state offered the ability for towns to double up to 100% what the current excise tax rebate is for the veterans. Unfortunately, though, that came without funding, so any additive thing has to come from the town’s account,” Renna said. “Hopefully, down the line from what I’ve been hearing is that the state will kind of catch up and start maybe evening out that reimbursement and that affects disabled veterans and any families of surviving veterans that may have died in combat or from their military service. So, they are already getting a tax abatement that hasn’t been increased from what I understand in over a couple decades.”

He added the Select Board, the town and the treasurer’s office “are looking closely at it.”

“Everybody wants to do the best they can for the veterans and we’ll see how it goes and what ends up making to town vote and how the town votes on it,” Renna said.

Last month, Renna had the opportunity to host a meet-and-greet at the senior center to chat with local veterans, meeting 30 of them.

“That is part of the outreach, which is a big part of this job and since then, out of the 30, I’ve probably had half of those have come into the office to have appointments to go over their stuff and be able to help them with their services, which has been awesome,” Renna said.

Another recent event was at The Gardens of Wilbraham, where they hold monthly Vet Chats.

“So, that was a chance to go and engage with another couple dozen veterans that live in town and that turned from a normal conversation into a lot of me just one-on-one talking with people about their own individual situa-

tions and their benefits,” Renna said.

From that event, about half of those veterans also came to meet with Renna.

“I’m happy that there’s such a need in the community and I’m able to see all those people and help them out in one way or another. It shows that there are that many veterans out there,” Renna said.

He also held a Vet Chat at the senior center on March 28 to honor Vietnam Veterans ahead of National Vietnam Veterans Day.

It’s these one-on-one interactions with the veterans that Renna has enjoyed most, calling them “a lot of very personal, very heartfelt, good interactions.”

“The nice part is I’m here to help them, so before they leave, we’re on the phone calling, we’re making them appointments. The whole thing, so when they walk out the door, they’re happy because they felt like they got the attention that they deserve,” Renna said. “Maybe things they had no idea they were eligible for and now they’re getting some help.”

Renna thanked the community for the warm welcome and added he looks forward to seeing everyone at this year’s Memorial Day and Veterans Day ceremonies.

“I mean, from day one I was getting phone calls or people were popping in or sending me emails, from all over the place welcoming me,” Renna said. “And not just the veterans. But, all sorts of people have come in to say hello and welcome me to the town, express their gratitude that they have somebody doing this position and that part’s been really great.”

Also, for veterans to stop by.

“Come see me. I want them to know I’m here and I want them to come see me,” Renna said. “Whatever help I can give or if they just want to come visit or have ideas.”

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— Beth from Belchertown

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Welcome Dr. Baroudi

The doctors and staff of Ludlow Family Dentistry take great pleasure in welcoming Amer Baroudi, D.D.S. to their practice. Dr. Baroudi was born and raised in Fort Lee, New Jersey, where he graduated from Fort Lee High School. He attended Rutgers University with a major in Biology. Following graduation, Dr. Baroudi went on to earn a dental degree from NYU College of Dentistry where he worked with and learned from renowned faculty. Dr. Baroudi provides excellent and comprehensive dental care focusing on providing personalized and caring treatment to every patient. He is well versed in all aspects of dentistry, including Restorative, Endodontics, Oral Surgery and the latest dental technologies. Dr. Baroudi also feels that patient education is a valuable component that allows him to achieve the goals of a beautiful, healthy stable mouth for his patients of all ages. He is an active member of the American Dental Association, as well as state and local dental organizations. Dr. Baroudi is accepting new patients. For an appointment please call (413) 583-6574.



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VIEWPOINTS

Celebrate Earth Day with eco-friendly donations to Habitat

By Brandice J. O'Brien
Marketing and Communications
Manager, Greater Springfield Habitat
for Humanity

WEST SPRINGFIELD - Earth Day is just around the corner and Greater Springfield Habitat for Humanity (GSHFH) invites you to celebrate the occasion by making a general environmental stewardship donation to support green building and energy-efficient building code requirements, or by participating in two recycling initiatives.

Greater Springfield Habitat is collecting aluminum beverage cans for its Cars for Homes program. The initiative is tied to the Novelis Affiliate Recycling Program, which awards a \$2,500 grant when 500 pounds (or 16,000 cans) are collected. Novelis is an international leader in aluminum rolling and recycling. The nonprofit will also accept Massachusetts re-deemable plastic and glass soda and alcoholic beverage bottles. Every can and bottle that is recycled with us helps build and repair affordable homes for families in need.

"The Cars for Homes program helps us receive a grant, which is financially beneficial but it also helps keep those cans and bottles out of our landfills. So, we are helping our local environment as well," said Olga Callingos, GSHFH Homeowner Pro-



Ernie Doucette, of Palmer, stands by his donation of empty, clean aluminum cans for Greater Springfield Habitat for Humanity.

grams coordinator. The Cars for Homes program debuted in May 2021 when Habitat for Humanity International (HFHI) and Novelis introduced a collaboration and invited Habitat affiliates to participate. Each quarter, participating affiliates collected and recycled donated cans, and reported the results back to

HFHI to be eligible for a \$2,500 grant. In 2024, the program changed. Instead of hosting quarterly initiatives, the grant was open for a six-month block and required affiliates to collect 500 pounds to be eligible for a \$2,500 grant. Additional awards are also given to the top 10 aluminum pound collectors.

"When we began the revised program in 2024, we thought the challenge was impossible. The community really surprised us and came to our aid. We collected more than 1,000 pounds of aluminum," said Brandy O'Brien, Greater Springfield Habitat Marketing and Communications manager. "It was really quite impressive."

Cans can be dropped off at 268 Cold Spring Ave in West Springfield. Or, to schedule a pick up, call (413) 739-5503.

Additionally, an assortment of vehicles can be donated to Habitat for HFHI's Cars for Homes program. Cars, motorcycles, boats, snowmobiles, and forklifts are accepted. All that is needed is certificate of title and four tires. HFHI will take care of the rest and arrange for pick up.

"I loved how easy it was to donate my car to the Cars for Homes program. They helped get a broken-down car out of my driveway and my affiliate got the financial contribution from that donation, a win-win in my book," Olga said. She donated a 2014 Nissan

Altima.

The Cars for Homes program launched in 2005 and since that time, HFHI has accepted more than 160,000 vehicles. The donations have been resold or recycled, and all have benefited Habitat. In the past five years, the Cars for Homes program has raised over \$72 million, according to habitat.org.

Once donated, the vehicle, based on its condition, will be sold through a national network of fully-licensed, insured, and bonded auctions and direct buyers. Roughly half of vehicles are sold to licensed dealers at wholesale auctions and are reused for transportation. The remaining half are brought to auto salvage yards where the reusable parts, batteries, tires, and fluids are removed. Vehicles that can be recycled are crushed, shredded, and turned into steel. On a monthly basis, 78-86% of revenue from vehicles donated to Habitat through Cars for Homes support local Habitat affiliates, like GSHFH. In fact, between \$7,000 and \$12,000 per year comes back to Greater Springfield Habitat.

Based on a donor's zip code or personal request, the donation is transferred to their local affiliate of choice.

To start your donation, visit bit.ly/3QNxn9a.

There are also still myths about who and who can't donate. In the early days of the HIV/AIDS epidemic, there were no tests to screen for HIV, so gay and bisexual men were prohibited from donating. The FDA rescinded that blanket ban in 2023 in favor of questions that assess the risk of HIV regardless of gender or gender expression.

Also, yes, you can donate if you have tattoos and piercings, as long as it was more than three months prior, you're completely healed and you took care to be inked or poked at a state-regulated facility. (That also means you can't use fear of needles as an excuse!)

Virtual reality comes to blood donation

For some people, giving blood is easy – and you get snacks when you're finished. For others, though, it can be unpleasant, and they are unlikely to become first-time donors, let alone repeat donors.

Virtual reality to the rescue, or actually a subset of VR called "mixed reality," which mingles the real and virtual worlds.

In 2023, a blood collection center let donors take their minds off the process by focusing on planting a garden – with just their eyes. Donors used the Microsoft HoloLens 2 to play Paragon, a game created by Abbott Labs and Blood Centers of America. The thinking is that a positive emotional response to blood donation will encourage folks to become repeat customers.

A blood donation truly is a unique gift that transcends gender, age, ethnic and political lines. Find a collection center or blood donor event near you, and roll up your sleeve.

Teri (Dreher) Frykenberg, is a registered nurse and board certified patient advocate and founder of www.NurseAdvocateEntrepreneur.com, which trains medical professionals to become successful private patient advocates. Teri offers a free phone consultation to Turley Newspaper readers as well as to nurses interested in becoming advocates. Reach her at Teri@NurseAdvocateEntrepreneur.com



your health

By Teri (Dreher) Frykenberg, RN
Guest Column

Blood donors are everyday heroes

Earlier this year, a 77-year-old Massachusetts grandfather was celebrated for his 550th blood platelet donation. Ralph "Rocco" Russo was inspired to begin donating when his best friend's then-14-year-old daughter was diagnosed with cancer in 1996.

And he just kept giving. We could use more everyday heroes like Rocco. Although the country seems to have weathered the severe blood shortage seen in January of this year, when the Red Cross declared a national crisis, hospitals can't have enough blood. A single trauma patient can require 20 units of blood – or more.

Regular blood donation by a sufficient number of healthy people is needed to ensure that blood will always be available whenever and wherever it is needed. With World Blood Donor Day celebrating its 20th anniversary on June 14, it's a good time to thank donors and encourage new ones.

Who can give blood?

Even though roughly 7 million Americans donate blood each year, that's only 3 percent of the eligible population. The qualifications are simple: Be 17 or older (there's no upper age limit as long

as you're in good health); feel well; and weigh 110 pounds or more. Many people are disqualified because of various infections, low iron, travel, pregnancy and other factors, so if you are eligible, give it some consideration.

At the donation site, after a brief health assessment (temperature, blood pressure, iron level), you'll be able to give the gift of life to a fellow human being.

Isn't there artificial blood? Researchers are racing to develop artificial red blood cells that could stand in for whole blood, but we're probably a decade or more away from that becoming reality. For now, there's no substitute for the real McCoy.

The parts can be greater than the whole

While you can donate whole blood six times a year, platelet donors (like Rocco) can give up to 24 times a year. This is because the donation process takes only part of your blood and returns the rest.

Platelets are tiny blood cells that form clots and stop bleeding. For millions of Americans, they are essential to surviving and fighting cancer, chronic diseases and traumatic injuries. Every 15 seconds, someone needs platelets.

You may even be able to sign up to donate platelets to help a friend with cancer. In platelet donation and transfusion, it's generally not necessary to match blood types.

Why don't more people donate?

The number of people who donate blood has dropped about 20 percent in the last few years. Fears about safety and needles keep some people from donating. There's also the bystander effect: It's common not to take action in a situation if you think someone else will.

Does giving blood actually hurt? It can, but it's usually no worse than stubbing your toe. There's that moment when you know the needle is coming close to the vein in your arm; the best thing to do is look away or close your eyes and keep breathing until that moment passes.



Early spring questions for the Garden Lady

Lisa, who gardens in Belchertown, had this question for the Garden Lady: "I saw a video online of someone using a weed whacker to cut down their raspberry plants. Why would they be doing that now? Aren't they cutting off all of the fruiting buds?"

It's sure interesting that you mention this particular topic! My husband and I stared at our raspberry plants and talked about getting out there to prune as well.

Before you grab the weed whacker and head out, though, you have to know your raspberries. Do you have "summer bearing" or "ever-bearing?"

If you have raspberry plants that bear one crop each summer, you would not cut them down to the ground now because you would be removing all of the fruiting buds. The berries grow on canes that are a year old.

All you would do to summer bearing raspberries now is prune out the canes that fruited last year if you haven't already done so. They will look old and the bark will be shedding a bit. Another giveaway is that when you cut into them there is no green "living" tissue.

Very thin canes, or canes that are growing closer than six inches apart can also be cut down to the ground.

Pruning is a bit different for those of us that have "ever-bearing" raspberries. You must decide if you want two smaller crops – one in the summer and one in the fall or one bumper crop in the fall.

Chances are that the video you saw was of someone turning their "ever-bearers" into "fall bearers" instead, by cutting the canes that fruited in the fall all the way down to the ground. New canes will grow and in late August-early September they will fruit, in abundance, hopefully.

If you like the idea of two crops, then do not prune away the canes that fruited last fall, but do cut off the tops of these canes. You'll see evidence of old berry clusters. Cut just below that point, leaving the rest of the cane.

New buds will form here, and these will be your first, summer crop. Do also cut away any remaining dead canes, and thin or too close together canes as mentioned above.

Christi wrote in with this question about her Rhododendrons, "I noticed

that parts of my rhododendron (as well as others in my neighborhood) are curled and perhaps dead. They normally curl when it gets really cold, but unfurl when it gets warm. Today is 65 degrees and parts have still not unfurled. I was wondering why this happened and what suggestions you might have."

Rhododendrons curl their leaves in the cold as a defense mechanism to reduce the overall surface area of the leaf in an effort to curb moisture loss. Sometimes it works and sometimes it

doesn't work as well.


Take, for example, if the plant was already stressed when it entered winter; then this process may not have the same effect. Perhaps we didn't have sufficient rain and supplemental water wasn't provided, then the plant's efforts of curling their leaves may not get them through the winter unscathed, especially the incredibly windy winter we had.

Once the ground thaws, give the shrubs a drink and if indeed these


Please see **GARDEN**, page 9




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

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www.wilbrahamhampdentimes.turley.com

PATRICK H. TURLEY
CEO

KEITH TURLEY
President

DEANNA SLOAT
Graphics Manager


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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

Hiking adventures with the
Wilbraham Hiking Club

Maple season in full swing!



Sap buckets hanging from trees, right next to old Daniele property on the mountain, Burleigh Rd.



Submitted photos and captions Shelby Gwatkin Hines
On Main Street at the top of Soule Road. Tank neatly full! A few weeks ago. Ferrindino Maple syrup family business.

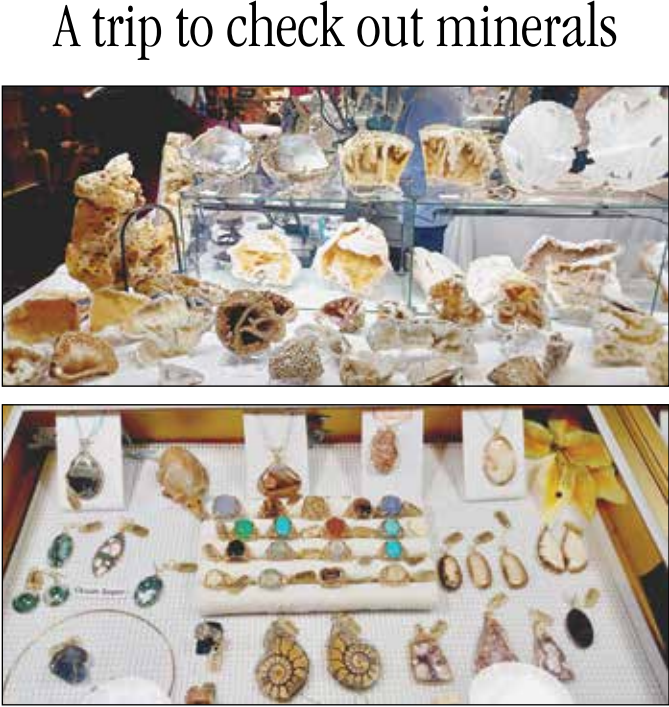


Submitted photos Susan Burk
The Wilbraham Hiking Club recently enjoyed some fun hikes, staying motivated no matter the season and enjoying a good time with fellow hiking enthusiasts.

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Linda of Wilbraham and Victoria of Hampden enjoyed shopping, learning and perusing the many brilliant minerals and fascinating rock finds from all over the world from the very friendly and enthusiastic members of the Connecticut Valley Mineral Club at their amazing show on Saturday, March 22 at the Castle of Knights in Chicopee. The Connecticut Valley Mineral Club has a wide variety of findings including jewelry, corals, fossils, preserved taxidermy, tools, books, interactive pick your own geode and split it open, learn to make jewelry, Rock and Mineral ID and a small special free gift for attendees.



Submitted photos and caption Victoria Desantis

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SELECTBOARD from page 1

bination of motions that were made at town meetings, options that perhaps would have made a better situation didn't go through for the regional agreement. People made choices," Flynn said. "As Don said, things have been unfair on both sides. But here we are in 2025. Where do we go from here? We don't talk about necessarily what happened this, and this. It gets us nowhere."

Selectboard member Craig Rivest said the only thing he could possibly see working out from the options listed for WMS "that would be fair was if Hampden had an equity stake in the building."

"Like Don mentioned, that's not on that list. Otherwise, there's no equal opportunity for Hampden to be taking on finances in that building," Rivest said.

Bunnell said one of the things she keeps circling back to is "what if this had gone the other way and everybody was coming to TWB."

"We would be sharing a lot of the concerns that you're raising. The buildings are the

same age, they were designed by the same architect," Bunnell said. "For me, it's been a little bit of a guide toward how would we be feeling about, what are the questions we would be raising if our positions were reversed. It's an exercise in terms of rationality and what's reasonable to try and move forward and get it done."

After Flynn noted Wilbraham did some upgrades to WMS, including a new roof, Bunnell emphasized the safety of the building and students.

"We're not looking to turn this building into the Taj Mahal at this age," Bunnell said. "I mean, we want to make sure that the kids are safe and that the building is safe. I certainly know that we ran into the issue that came up with the mold based on the period of time last summer that the building was closed up and things were as wet as they were. We also have from the Department of Health at the state level a clear indication that that has been remediated."

On the question of tests since then, it was confirmed yes and they were done in the

winter. On the financials, Select Board Clerk Marc Ducey said the way the proposed regional agreement reads, now, "the cost for the regional middle school--and it's specified as a regional middle school--will be proportioned amongst towns off the enrollment, basically."

"So, that's what proposed and we're fine with that," Ducey said.

Ducey added what brought all this to a head was where it says, "all capital costs will be proportioned based on enrollment."

"And so the School Committee is looking to bring that to DESE for final approval and we were talking amongst ourselves saying, 'Does everybody agree with this?' and that's where this came from," Ducey said. "So, we're okay with it and seemingly Hampden's not."

Rivest summarized that Hampden residents and taxpayers are concerned about they "would invest into something for repairs, infrastructure, whatever needs are there that there would not be an equity stake in a return invest-

ment on Hampden."

"I understand there's technology needs and everything that's heating and fuel and those things are consumables, but as far as like the hard structure of the bones, people are concerned that they'd be investing in the product, but not having an ownership of it and I think that's where the sticking point is," Rivest said.

Rivest added the fourth option with the equity stake investment could probably change people's minds.

Several minutes discussing the return on investment followed, with clarification given on what the equity stake is.

"So, the town's investing money on whatever needs arise. That's money we've invested into the town, into the building. Wilbraham sells the building, we have nothing. You're getting money for something, we're getting nothing for an investment," Rivest said.

On the option of selling WMS for \$1, Bunnell disagreed on this, with Ducey adding it's "a non-starter."

Select Board Vice Chair Michael Squindo understood

part of the issue was about splitting capital costs and noted how he "was hearing something different right now," prefacing his comments with what he said at the last joint meeting about needing to move forward as a single district.

"I think to do that, we have to recognize that both sides are going to take some sort of an uncomfortable loss, if we look at it strictly from a financial position," Squindo said. "I understand of the point of the building return on investment, but it's the education of the students and it's the safety of the students. Because the longer we kick this can down the road or risk the regional agreement over this one issue, the more risk we have of does Wilbraham continue to not be able to fund capital improvements because it's a huge ask on us, and all we're looking for is, effectively, can we come to an agreement so that we make sure our students are educated safely and as full value educationally as we can."

On the options, Squindo was leaning towards three or four "on some level," reiterat-

ing his earlier thoughts on understanding it was ironing out the split of capital costs.

"Is there an issue with the language regarding the splitting of the capital cost or is it more around concept of equity?" Squindo said. "They're connected, but they're two separate conversations."

Flynn didn't think they were connected and emphasized how Hampden has always supported capital projects, including at the high school.

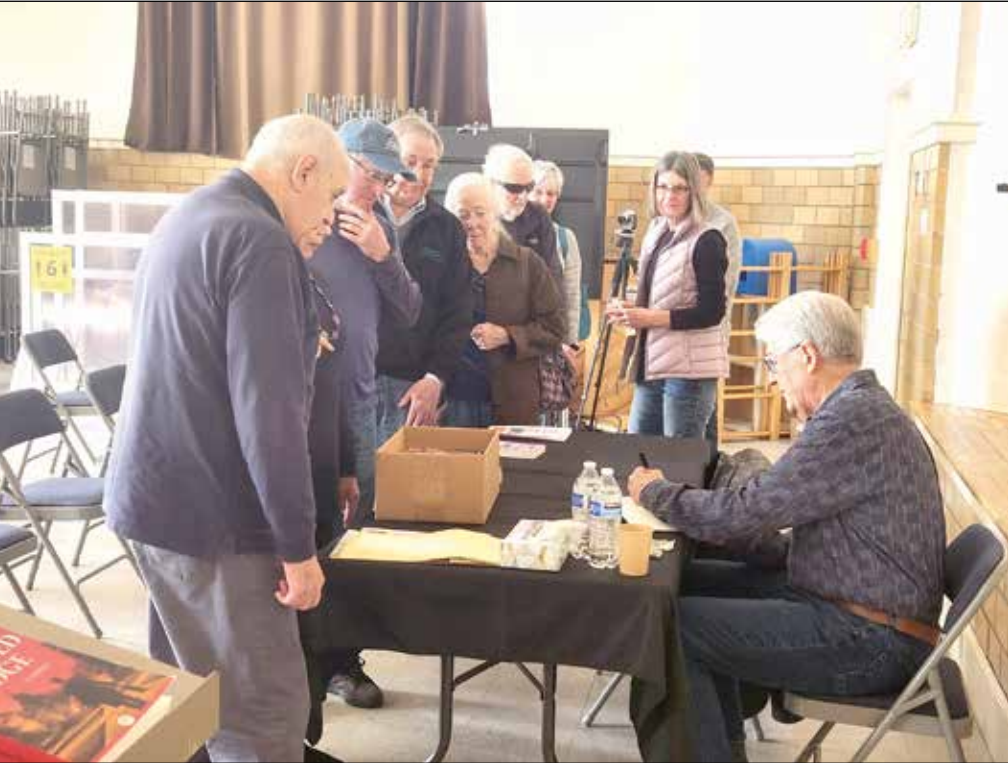
"It's the concept of is this going to be a regional building and, if so, how do we get to the equity part like we have for the building that both towns built together on land they both own and had equity from the beginning," Flynn said.

After Davenport mentioned a feasibility study from eight years ago with a list of items to do and how that was not done, this led to several minutes of discussion on how to move forward and more on capital costs.

The discussion will continue at the next meeting in April.



Members of the Friends of the Hampden Free Public Library join Judge Michael Ponsor for a group photo after his Author Talk in Hampden.



Readers gather as Judge Michael Ponsor signs copies of his books to attendees during his Author Talk in Hampden on March 22.

AUTHOR from page 1

working on a fourth book in the series.

Afterward, a book signing was held where Ponsor met with eager readers and signed copies of his books.

Ponsor was excited to come to Hampden to talk about his books.

"It was wonderful. It was a beautiful day. This is a terrific community and I really appreciated the Friends of the Hampden Free Public Library sponsoring it," Ponsor said. "I really enjoyed it."

Ponsor's favorite part of the visit was the Q&A with the attendees.

"People had very insightful questions about both things. About the books and the writing of the books, what I was trying to do with the novels and, also, about my career as a judge," Ponsor said. "A particularly astute, insightful and enthusiastic group."

Ponsor explained with his books he wanted to bring readers into the perspective of Norcross.

"I think there is a need for people to understand that judges are human beings and the work of a judge is very difficult and that judges work hard to do justice in situations where the issues are often tense and confusing," Ponsor said. "And I want people to understand that and I think a fictional narrative is a good way for them to do that."

"Point of Order," Ponsor's latest book, came out last year.

"It focuses on some issues which are kind of prominent today. One is immigration and those types of cases. Another is the question of judge shopping and part of the mystery in this book--or the plot--involves a rogue clerk who figures out how to steer cases to particular judges instead of having them be distribut-



Judge Michael Ponsor chats with Selectboard Member John Flynn after the author talk.



Judge Michael Ponsor speaks at his book talk at the Town House Auditorium in Hampden. The event was sponsored by the Friends of the Hampden Free Public Library.



Judge Michael Ponsor signs a copy of one of his books to Judge Michael Callan, who came to support his fellow judge at the event.

ed in a neutral and impartial fashion and that is very profitable," Ponsor said. "And that creates headaches and, eventually, violence as that plot comes unraveled."

While writing the books, Ponsor has most enjoyed "the experience of putting words on the page."

"It's deeply pleasurable, particularly when it's going well. Writing is very hard. Someone once said that writing is not a problem, you just sit and stare at a computer screen until drops of blood begin to form on your forehead," Ponsor said. "That process of crafting a coherent narrative--whether it's fiction or nonfiction--is difficult but can be very satisfying if it

comes out well." Ponsor thanked the library for bringing him to Hampden and he enjoyed meeting the residents.

"I think I would like to underline that you have a wonderful community here and the people who are responsible for this kind of event are just terrific and I find that places like libraries and book clubs and things are places that bring us together in a time where there's so much tearing us apart," Ponsor said. "So, I want to end by giving praise to your community and to this community of people here."

To learn more, visit michaelponсор.com.

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Events & announcements schedule

Wilbraham Earth Day 2025 seeking sponsors

WILBRAHAM - Dear Wilbraham! The Keep Wilbraham Beautiful Committee (KWBC) is thrilled to announce the 3rd Annual Earth Day Community Clean-Up, set for Saturday, April 12, 2025.

After the incredible success of last year's event—where over 300 volunteers worked together to clean up our town—we are aiming for an even larger turnout this year, with 500+ volunteers joining us in this community-wide effort. The KWBC, in partnership with the town Select Board, DPW, local Police and Conservation Commission, is organizing this event to make our town a cleaner, greener, and more beautiful place to live.

On April 12, volunteers will gather at Fountain Park between 8 a.m. to 1 p.m., where they will receive supplies, instructions, and a designated area to clean up. Volunteers will enjoy a complimentary donut at registration and complimentary lunch upon return to Fountain Park with the collected trash.

We are trying to keep things light, fun and create a positive vibe where participants can celebrate the positive impact they've made. To ensure the success of this volunteer-driven initiative, we need your support.

We are seeking both financial contributions and volunteers to help make this event a reality. Your support will directly contribute to the logistics of the event and the materials needed for the cleanup, ensuring that we have all the necessary tools and supplies.

How You Can Help:

- Promote the Event: Display our event flyer or banner at your business to help spread the word and encourage more people to participate.
- Sponsor Volunteer Meals: Help fund the Thank-You Lunch for all the volunteers. This is a great opportunity to show your support and appreciation for their hard work.
- Sponsor Supplies: Your donation will help cover the cost of essential cleanup supplies, including trash bags, grabbers,

buckets, and safety vests.

- Encourage Volunteers: Share our event on social media and encourage your customers, teams, employees, and community members to sign up on our Facebook page/Website.

Our goal is to showcase Wilbraham Pride through the collective effort of businesses and residents working together to care for our environment. Your involvement will make a lasting impact on the community and help foster a sense of unity.

If you are interested in supporting this year's Earth Day Clean-Up, please contact Megan Harrigan, Event Chairman, at keepwilbrahambeautiful@gmail.com or 413-427-3670. Together, we can make Wilbraham a cleaner, more beautiful place for all.

Thank you for your consideration and for being a part of this important event.

Hampden Parks & Recreation Department Announces Exciting Spring Programs and Registration Deadlines

HAMPDEN – The Hampden Recreation Department is proud to announce an exciting lineup of current and upcoming programs for children and adults. From life-saving CPR training to fun-filled athletic activities, there's something for everyone this season. With multiple registration deadlines approaching, now is the time to sign up for programs designed to engage, educate, and inspire.

Current Programs:

- Wildlife Programming at Laughing Brook
Registration: Ongoing
Connect with nature through engaging wildlife programs at Laughing Brook. Learn about local wildlife species, their habitats, and the environment. Programs are designed for all ages and offer opportunities for outdoor learning in a fun, interactive way.
- Safe Sitter® Essentials Training Apr
Registration: Feb. 27 - April 8

- a comprehensive course designed to help young teens (ages 11-18) become safe, responsible, and confident caregivers. This course is an excellent opportunity for teens who are ready to take on babysitting or caregiving responsibilities while ensuring they are prepared to handle emergencies and everyday situations with ease.
- Healthy Kids Running Registration: Ongoing
Encourage kids to get moving with the Healthy Kids Running program! This initiative promotes physical activity and healthy habits while helping young runners build confidence and improve their fitness. Registration is open for participants of all skill levels.

Upcoming Programs:

- Little Laxers Lacrosse Registration: April 1 - April 30
Get ready for a fun and fast-paced introduction to the sport of lacrosse! This program is designed for younger children who are interested in learning the basics of lacrosse through skill-building drills and friendly games. Don't miss out—registration opens soon!
- Hampden Memorial Park Summer Program Activity 2025
Registration Opens: Mar 10
Make your summer memorable with activities and events at Hampden Memorial Park. The summer program will offer a variety of fun outdoor experiences, and registration details will be available soon!

Closing Soon:

- Recreation Baseball Grades K-8 - 2025
Still seeking players for grades (3-4) and (5-6)
Time is running out to sign up for the 2025 Recreation Baseball season! If you have a child in grades 3-4 or 5-6, there are still spots available. Don't miss the opportunity to be part of a fun, competitive baseball league!

Don't miss out! Register today to secure your place in these incredible programs and enjoy a spring full of learning, fun, and physical activity.

For more information and to register visit: <https://hampdenma.myrec.com>.

Watercolor Painting Class at the Federated Community Church of Hampden

HAMPDEN - The Federated Community Church will host a watercolor painting class from 12:30 to 3 p.m. on six Saturdays: April 5 and 12 at the church, 590 Main St, Hampden, MA.

The Instruction will attempt to take the mystery out of the watercolor process. Dave Spencer, a retired architect and accomplished watercolorist, will lead the way.

Enrollees will have a small fee of \$10 per session to cover any expenses incurred by the church.

It's always fun to paint and share new ideas and techniques. Make your interest and commitment known early. You may contact the Church Office at 413-566-3711 directly or contact Pastor Kwan Kim via email at hampdenfederated@gmail.com.

Wilbraham DPW seeks plow contractors

WILBRAHAM – The Department of Public Works is seeking plowing contractors to assist with town wide plowing.

If you are interested in plowing for the Town of Wilbraham, Massachusetts, USA please contact Wilbraham DPW 413-596-2800 x208 for more information.

Reading with Tucker at HPL

HAMPDEN – Children can visit the Hampden Free Public Library to read to Tucker, a dog from Bright Spot Therapy Dogs.

People can sign up by emailing me at krumplik@cwmars.org.

The upcoming dates are April 8 and April 29.

There are four slots every day, 15 minutes each starting at 3:30 p.m.

To learn more, contact Kate Rumpalik at krumplik@cwmars.org or call 413-566-2151 ext. 112.

Open Burning Season has started

HAMPDEN - The Open Burning Season started on January 15, 2025 and runs through May 1, 2025. Homeowners may burn brush, branches and forest debris between the hours of 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. daily through the season.

Other restrictions apply and burning may not be allowed on certain days due to recent lack of precipitation and strong winds. A permit from our department is required which you can obtain online from the following link.

To obtain burn permit visit <http://www.hcburnpermits.com>.

Wilbraham Men's Glee Club to Begin Rehearsals

WILBRAHAM - The Wilbraham Men's Glee Club, accompanied by Marcia Jackson and conducted by Ray Drury, will begin rehearsals for the 2025 concert season on Monday evening, Jan. 6, at Christ the King Lutheran/Episcopal Church at 7 p.m. Rehearsals will continue each Monday thereafter until two concerts in late April/early May.

While no audition is required, all interested should be able to "carry a tune" attend the majority of rehearsals, and be able to pay a nominal fee at the first rehearsal to cover the cost of sheet music.

Hampden Winter Parking Ban Information

HAMPDEN – The Town of Hampden Winter Parking Ban will run from November 15, 2024, through April 15, 2025.

Any vehicles left on town roads may be towed at the owner's expense. All vehicles that impede snow removal shall be towed at the request of the Highway Department.

Minnechaug Car Wash

WILBRAHAM - The Minnechaug American Cancer Society Club will be hosting a Car Wash on Saturday, April 12 at 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Student Parking Lot. All proceeds will be donated to the American Cancer Society.

Please stop by to support this cause and our amazing students!

OPRO hosting spring concert April 4

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

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

Our concerts are FREE and family-friendly, thanks in part to the generosity of the Wilbraham Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency. Members of the Minnechaug Key Club will also assist concert goers at the door.

Please join OPRO on this musical journey across Italy!

Hampden Rabies Clinic for dogs and cats

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

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

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

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

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

ALL CATS SHOULD BE IN A CARRIER.
ALL DOGS MUST BE ON A LEASH.

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

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

Hampden holding Democratic Caucus April 10

HAMPDEN - The Democratic Party in Hampden will be holding a caucus in the Town Hall, 625 Main St, Hampden, on April 10, 2025 from 5 to 7 p.m. for the purpose of nominating candidates for the 2025 Annual Town Election.



GARDEN from page 6

branches don't respond as spring weather continues, it may be time to do some corrective pruning. Oftentimes, stems that are cut back to well within the shrub respond with new growth that will rejuvenate the rest of the

plant, making it look better and better. Good luck!

Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For 33 years she has held the position of staff horticultur-

ist 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.



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SCHOOLS

In remembrance of Matthew Michael Thomas

By Sofia Gonzalez, Jack Fulton and Liam DeVine

WILBRAHAM - Matthew Michael Thomas was a night custodian at Soule Road School for three years and was well loved by all the teachers and students.

He sadly passed away on Feb. 26 after he bravely battled gastric cancer. It all happened so fast that we were shocked and many of us didn't even get to say goodbye.

He was a big part of our Soule Road family and made a huge impact.

Outside of Soule Road he had many hobbies. He had a passion for music and studied at the Conservatory of Recording Arts and Studies and loved to play the bass guitar and was quite good at it.

Matt also loved mountain biking and outdoor adventures which shared many wonderful memories with Kim and her son Evan. He also played baseball since he was little and enjoyed being a fan of the Boston Red Sox.

Matt was blessed with a loving family who he spent much of his time with. He had a soft spot for his nephew, James and his niece, Clairra whom he adored.

Matt found true love when he met Kim Forni and her son Evan.

Besides keeping Soule Road School tidy, he also worked with the bikers, helping them cross safely.

As a biker myself—Jack Fulton—I had many nice conversations with Matt. He was always so friendly and wished me a great day.

Matt will be remembered by so

many at Soule Road for being such a wonderful, caring, friendly individual. Here is what teachers, staff and students at Soule Road had to say.

Teachers/Staff:

Mrs. Deb Nickerson, school nurse: “(He was) always willing to help.”

Mrs. Jaemi Rost, administrative assistant: “Would stop what he was doing to help right away.”

Mrs. Susan Wolcott, paraprofessional: “Always had a smile.”

Mrs. Kelly Elliott: “Loved his sports, music, friends and family.”

Mrs. Paige Coelho, paraprofessional: “Always had a smile on his face.”

Mrs. Natalie Pelletier: “Always a smile and a kind word for everybody.”

Mrs. Kristin McCoy: “Always appreciated his quiet, calm nature. Always willing to help.”

Ms. Melissa Premo, school adjustment counselor: “Mr. Matt—we'll miss you always. Thank you for always smiling and sharing your life experiences.”

Mrs. Lauren Broughton, school psychologist: “He always showed up for the Soule Road community with a friendly and positive attitude.”

Dan Gordon, custodian: “(I) liked listening to his adventures on the bike trails.”

Mrs. Cheryl Erskine: “Matt was an amazing coworker. He was an enormous help with the Grand Re-opening of the Soule Road Library. He always had a smile and did whatever was necessary to keep the school running smoothly. We miss you Matt. God Bless.”



Mrs. Mistie Parsons, principal at Soule Road School: “Mr. Matt was always there to help, share a story of recent adventure, and offer encouragement. He loved working at our school, especially connecting with students who bike. He is already dearly missed.”

Mrs. LeeAnn Lanucha: “Matt would always stop what he was doing to help others.”

Mrs. Courtney Brannigan, special education teacher: “Matt’s love for nature and the outdoors always provided a great topic for conversation.”

Mrs. Cara Canedi: “Dear Matt! We will always miss your lighthearted spirit.”

Kathy Aleks, lunch monitor: “Matt, I will miss your smiles every day in the hallway and how you helped us. We'll miss you.”

Ms. Gendron: “Matt was so friendly, so helpful, so supportive of the music program (being a musi-



cian, himself); he is so missed.”

Mrs. Emma Pluta: “Mr. Thomas was the kindest person at Soule Road School. He will be missed so much.”

Mrs. Stephanie Harju said, “Matt always greeted everyone with a smile. He went above and beyond everyday to help others.”

Mrs. Elizabeth Fortunata-Curran: “Matt was always willing to help. He was a wonderful man, who will be missed by many.”

Mrs. Isabella Adkins: “Matt always had a smile on his face. He was always willing to help with anything you need!”

Mrs. Lauren Alben: “Matt’s love for mountain biking was inspiring to see such passion.”

Mrs. Corine Mayock, paraprofessional: “His smile and willingness to help anyone.”



Photos courtesy of Cheryl Erskine

Mr. Brett Overgaard: “Matt was one of the first people I connected with at Soule. We shared a love for art, and he told me about his interest in exploring oil paints as an artist!”

Students:

Kylie Smith: “He was so nice and cared for us. Always wanted kids to be happy.”

Stella Moriarty: “The amount of love he had for us was beyond compare.”

Liam Devine: “He was always helping and friendly to others.”

Sofia Gonzalez: “I just think it all happened too quickly. He is so missed.”

Peter Harrington: “I saw him roaming the halls when I had practiced basketball at Soule and he seemed like he was a good man.”

Thank you for touching our lives! We miss you!

Monthly Highlights for April at the Hampden Senior Center

HAMPDEN - The following programs will occur at the senior center on Allen Street in the coming weeks.

Create a Greeting Card with Ellie! – New Day & Time!
Monday, April 7, 1 to 3 p.m.
Cost is \$3.00 per person. All materials are provided.
Please call 566-5588 to reserve your seat, space is limited.

Crafts with Kim
We are happy to introduce Kim Keeton, a member of the senior center who has years of crafting experience, first as a junior high school teacher and later as the floral manager at Michael's. Kim is offering the following classes in April. All materials are included in the price of the class. Samples of each project are displayed in our lobby.

Monday, April 7 from 1 to 3 p.m.
Easter Wreath or Lighted Tree. Cost is \$20 for either project.

Monday, April 14 from 1 to 3 p.m.
Easter Snow Globe (makes a great gift for a grandchild). Cost is \$10.00.

Tuesday, May 6 from 1 to 3 p.m.
Bow Making. Cost is \$10.00.

Ribbon will be provided for the class but if you want to make a bow with something specific for a project you are working on, bring it to class that day.

Please call 566-5588 to reserve your spot for each class you are interested in. Space is limited.

Ever wanted to try Scrapbooking?
Kim will hold an infor-

mational session to discuss what supplies are needed and give suggestions on organizing your pictures. If there is enough interest, Kim will offer classes so you can personalize your scrapbook using her tools to make it unique.

Learn more about scrapbooking on Tuesday, April 22 at 1 p.m.
Western New England Mad Science Presents Science Behind Superheroes
Tuesday, April 8, 9:30 to 10:30 a.m.
Join us as we welcome Mad Science and Green Valley Preschool for an intergenerational program all about Science and Superheroes! Educators from Western New England Mad Science will help you discover the real science behind some of the most popular superhero powers! We will explore the science of flight, how science can make things turn invisible, and how Spiderman might walk on walls; all using fun and high-energy experiments! All are welcome to attend. Please call 566-5588 to sign up.

The Friends of Hampden Senior Citizens announce their 2025 Annual Meeting Tuesday, April 8 (Annual Meeting) at 3 p.m. All are welcome to attend.
Have you ever wondered what the Friends group does? Have you considered getting more involved with fundraising for the senior center? Do you pay your annual dues and wonder what that means or where that money goes?

Learn about the Friends and how their fundraising efforts support the senior center throughout the year. Hear about current openings on the

Friends Board and find out if becoming a board member is a good fit for you. *If interested, contact Claudia Kapinos, president at 413-478-5462.*

The Friends of Hampden Seniors are hosting a Hartsprings Truck Event Saturday, April 12 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.
At Bethlehem Church, 123 Allen Street, Hampden, MA
Will accept all cloth items, such as clothing, including scrap sewing/quilting material, bedding, linens, towels, shoes, and purses. Books, kitchenware, breakable knickknacks, small appliances, small speakers, and sporting goods. Toys must be boxed to be accepted. Table lamps will be accepted only if they're boxed and protected from breaking. **NO encyclopedias, textbooks, or baby items such as strollers, cribs, carriages, stuffed animals, or pillows.**

This truck event is an opportunity to drop off all your larger bags or boxed items for Spring Cleanup. By doing so, you're also helping the Senior Center earn a small percentage based on the total weight of items received from Hartsprings which helps their cause. *There is no charge to drop off these items. All proceeds from this event will benefit the needs of the Hampden Senior Center.*

D & R Farm Winter Farm Share
PICK-UP is on Wednesday, April 16 at 9:30 a.m.
D & R Farm offers fresh produce *once a month*, from January through June.
FREE with SNAP/HIP if you qualify!

If you do not qualify for SNAP/HIP, you may purchase a share for \$20 cash each month.

Please let us know if you need your shares delivered.
New applications are required.

If interested, contact Wendy at 566-5588 to get your application in! Shares are limited.

Needle Felt Craft Class with Pop-Up Art School
Tuesday, April 22, 2025,

at 10:30 a.m. Cost is \$12.
Learn how to needle-felt a bird with red accents, perched on a real branch. Pop Up Art School will show you the basics of how to needle-felt wool roving. Leave the class with the basic supplies and knowledge to needle felt on your own. Needle felting is surprisingly easy, relaxing, and fun!
Call 566-5588 to reserve your seat.

COVID Vaccine Clinic By appointment only: Monday, April 28, 2025 from 1 to 3 p.m.
Who should receive a shot? The CDC recommends that previously vaccinated individuals 65 and older receive a second dose separated by 6 months regardless of vaccination history. This means if you received your last shot here at the senior center (or somewhere else) back in October 2024, you are eligible.
Please call your health care provider if you have specific questions about your personal situation and vaccine history. By appointment only. Please call 566-5588 to schedule and appointment.

Do you have Parkinson's Disease or know someone who does?
PWR! Moves Group Exercise Classes, A Parkinson-specific exercise class that “makes function exercise” to keep you moving and doing more of what you want to do! As you practice, you will be challenged physically and cognitively while working on fitness goals: strength, balance, agility, aerobics, and flexibility. Exercises are designed to improve your fitness, counteract your PD symptoms, and increase your daily activity. This whole-body function-focused exercise class will push you to do more than you think you can in a fun, empowering, and enriched environment!

With enough interest, classes will be on Mondays from 9 to 10 a.m., and will be led by Lisa Kern, OT, Reiki Master| Holistic Therapist
Cost is \$10.00 per class. Please call 566-5588 to let us know if you are interested.

Common Threads Led by Joan Tompkins, PhD All are welcome!
Mondays from 11 a.m. to Noon– Newcomers will meet at 12:30 pm.
We invite you to join us as we share many things such as: Loneliness vs Feeling Lonely Adapting to Life Changes Finding purpose for our life as Seniors Bereavement as well as Joyous Moments
There is no charge to join this group. Please call 566-5588 to reserve your seat.

Making Music with Sue – New Students Welcome!
New 12-week session begins April 7 through June 30. Mondays, Noon to 1 p.m. - Beginner Ukulele and Recorder Mondays, 1:15 to 2:30 p.m. - Ensemble Class (Ukulele, Recorder, Percussion, & Vocals)
Cost is \$60 for the 12-week session if paid in full and receive two free classes, or \$6 per class for drop-ins. *New students must call ahead for placement.*
Please pay cash or make checks payable directly to: Susan McHand
Please call 566-5588 to reserve your spot.

Living Stronger... Longer... with Lamar Moore – New Students Welcome!
New 12-week session begins April 8 through July 8. No classes 4/22 & 5/13. Tuesdays, 2:15 to 3 p.m.
Learn about balance and how it impacts overall health and wellness. Get tips on strength training and cardiovascular endurance to increase mobility and flexibility.
Cost is \$6 per class. Please call 566-5588 to reserve your spot.

“African Drumming” with Jason”
There will be a concert on March 28 so you can see what all the hype is about! All are welcome!
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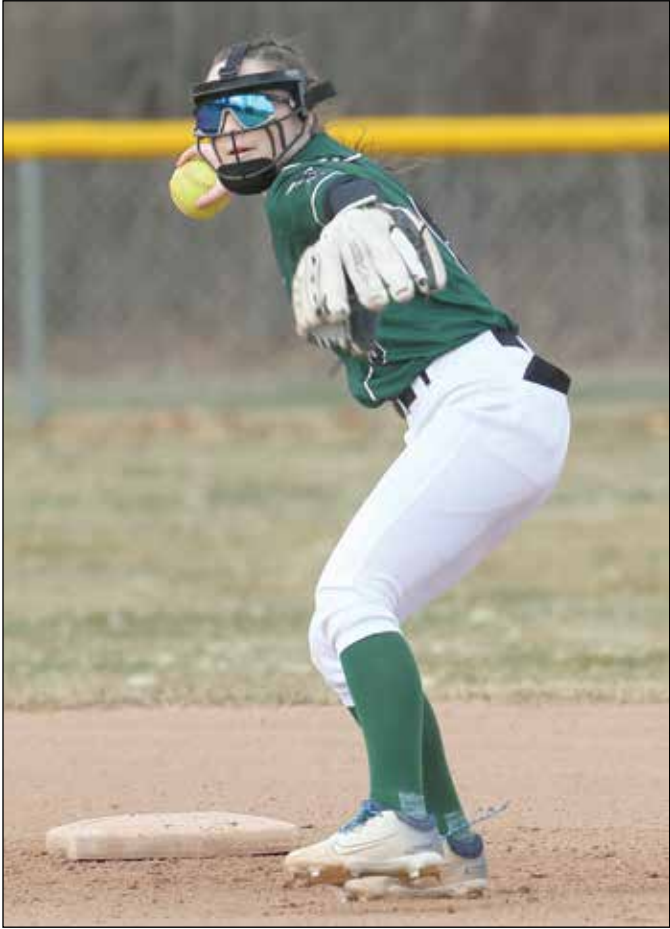
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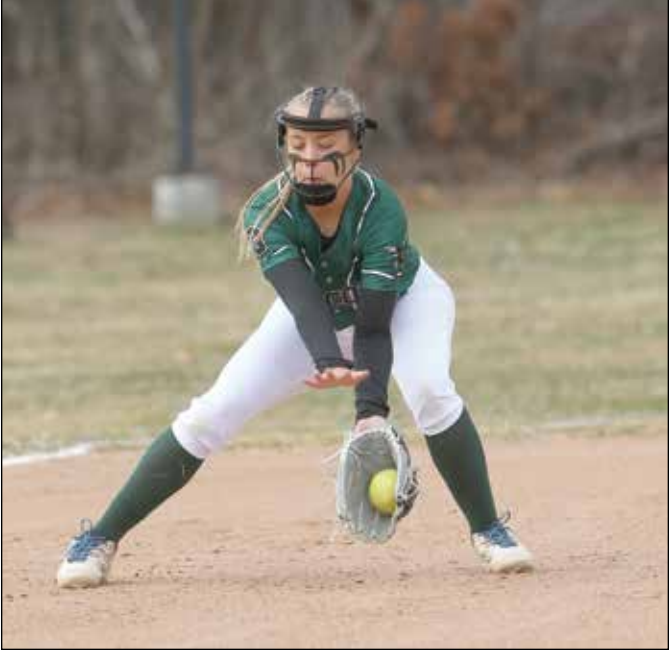
Falcons double up on Lions in opener



Gianna Fusco sends a throw to first.

WILBRAHAM – The Ludlow and Minnechaug Regional softball teams have been making a habit of getting together early in the spring season for the past four years.

This year, the two teams faced each other in the season opener last Friday afternoon. Minnechaug’s offense was on display as they picked up the 12-6 win.



Mylie Mitter scoops up the grounder.

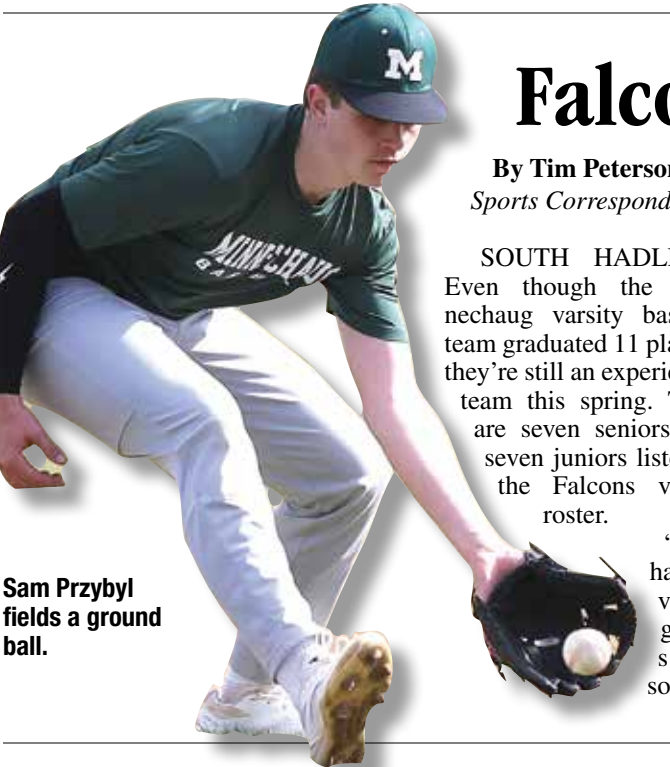


Veronica Ouimet looks for the tag at second.



Pitcher Kaelyn Dionne sends a pitch to the plate.

Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com



Sam Przybyl fields a ground ball.

Falcons re-tooled after large graduating class

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

SOUTH HADLEY— Even though the Minnechaug varsity baseball team graduated 11 players, they’re still an experienced team this spring. There are seven seniors, and seven juniors listed on the Falcons varsity roster.

“We had a very good season last

year and we graduated a total of eleven players,” said Minnechaug varsity baseball coach Mike Netkovick following his team’s scrimmage at South Hadley High School on March 25. “We might’ve lost a lot of outstanding baseball players, but we still have a core group of seniors and juniors.”

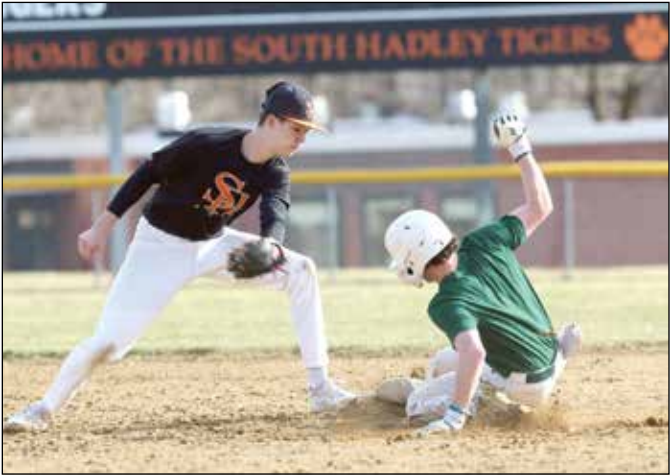
The Falcons, who posted a 13-8 overall record a year ago, finished tied for first place with Springfield Central in Valley East League standings. It was the first time that

they captured the league title in the ten years that Netkovick has been at the helm.

“We won the league title last year for the first time since 2012. It was a very enjoyable season,” Netkovick said. “There are a lot of talented teams in our league this year. We’re hoping to win another league title this year, but we’ll have to earn it.”

The other three teams in the Valley East League are Northampton, East

Please see **FALCONS**, page 12



Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com
The Minnechaug baseball team scrimmages South Hadley last Tuesday afternoon.

Chaug boys lacrosse ready for regular season



Minnechaug boys lacrosse prepares for the season opener.

Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com



The boys lacrosse team opened up their season against South Hadley last Friday.



The Falcons will be looking for another strong regular season.



The Falcons will be challenged by the toughest teams in the region, including Longmeadow, who they have beaten in regular season action recently.

WILBRAHAM – The Minnechaug Regional High School boys lacrosse team finished gearing up for their regular season. The Falcons were scheduled to open the

season against South Hadley, then had a tough matchup scheduled against Pope Francis. Coming up, the Falcons will face East Longmeadow on April 7.

Two late goals help T-Birds stun Bruins

PROVIDENCE, R.I. — The Springfield Thunderbirds (33-26-2-4) stunned the Providence Bruins (36-22-4-3) with two goals in the final 90 seconds to pick up an astonishing 3-2 win on Sunday inside Amica Mutual Pavilion. The victory shaves Springfield's magic number to just 4 in pursuit of a Calder Cup playoff berth.

The starting goaltenders had a busy first stanza on this Sunday, as the T-Birds were quick to test Brandon Bussi with 18 first-period attempts, while the Bruins pressed the gas for 11 shots on Vadim Zherenko.

Springfield broke the ice first when MacKenzie MacEachern, fresh off of being robbed by Bussi on the prior sequence, chopped a rebound over Bussi's pad at the net front following a point slapper by Nikita Alexandrov. MacEachern's third goal in as many games made it 1-0 for the visitors at 13:12.

In a penalty-free period, one of the T-Birds' few miscues wound up costing them their lead in the final minute when Tyler Pitlick blocked a point shot and raced in on a breakaway before beating Zherenko over the blocker to even the slate, 1-1.

Zherenko needed to be at his best in the middle period as the Bruins outpaced Springfield on the shot board by a 13-4 margin. The third-year netminder made his best stop of the frame in stonewalling Oliver Wahlstrom on a breakaway in the back half of the period. Springfield got the game's first power play at 4:45 of the second, but the Bruins had the best scoring chances, including a 2-on-1 shorthanded, but Fraser Minten missed the target on a left-circle attempt.

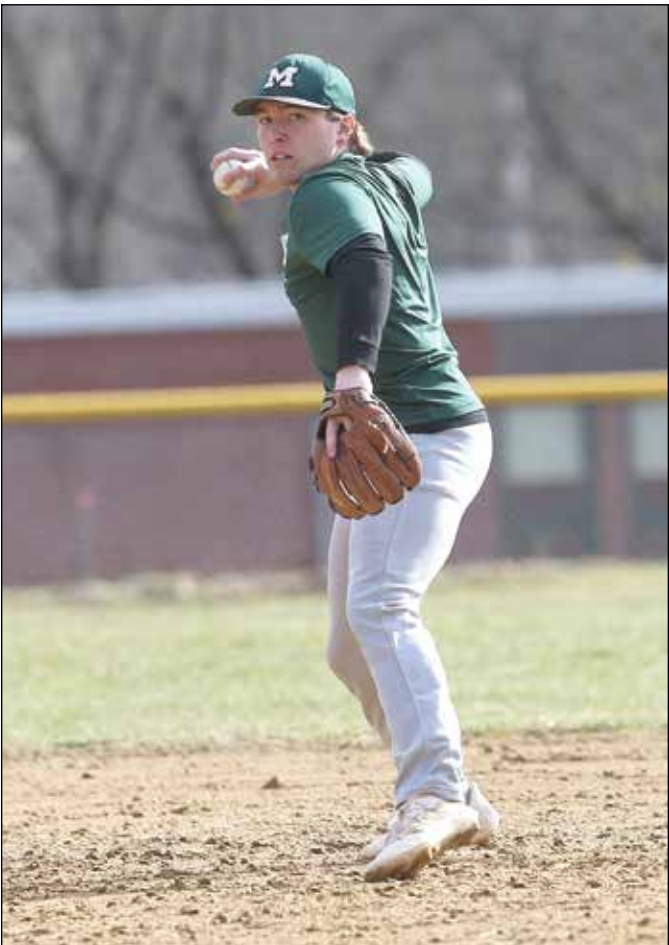
In the final minute, the T-Birds found themselves hemmed in their own end, but Zherenko was there to save the day with back-to-back saves on Brett Harrison at point-blank range to get the game into the third period deadlocked.

Springfield finally took its first two penalties in the opening half of the third, and on the Bruins' second power play, the home team gained its first lead of the night when Matthew Poirtras cleaned up a Georgii Merkulov rebound off Zherenko's right pad to make it a 2-1 game at 7:16 of the third.

The T-Birds struggled to regain its first-period form, as they had managed just seven shots over roughly 35 minutes from the start of the second. However, when it mattered most, and with Zherenko on the bench for an extra skater, Alexandrov took it upon himself to turn the game around. It began when he raced through neutral ice and cut to the slot off his right-wing side. After his initial shot was blocked, Alexandrov followed through on the second chance to put the puck behind Bussi, tying the game with 1:24 remaining.

The star winger was far from finished, though. With time dwindling on regulation, Alexandrov won a puck battle on the left-wing boards and moved to the front of the net after the puck got to Leo Loof at the left point. Loof flipped the puck into traffic, where Alexandrov deflected it across his body and under Bussi's legs, giving Springfield the 3-2 lead with just 18.6 seconds left.

The Bruins never recovered, and Alexandrov's 20th and 21st goals of the year proved to be the difference. Zherenko finished a fantastic night of his own with 35 saves, including 12 in the final period.



Ben Daniels flips a throw to first.



Ethan Purcell sends a pitch home.

FALCONS from page 11

Longmeadow, and Longmeadow.

The 2024 campaign didn't start out very well for Minnechaug, who had a 1-5 record after their first six games of the regular season. They then put together a ten game winning streak before losing to Central at Spec Pond on May 14. The Falcons evened the season series two nights later with a 9-6 victory at Central.

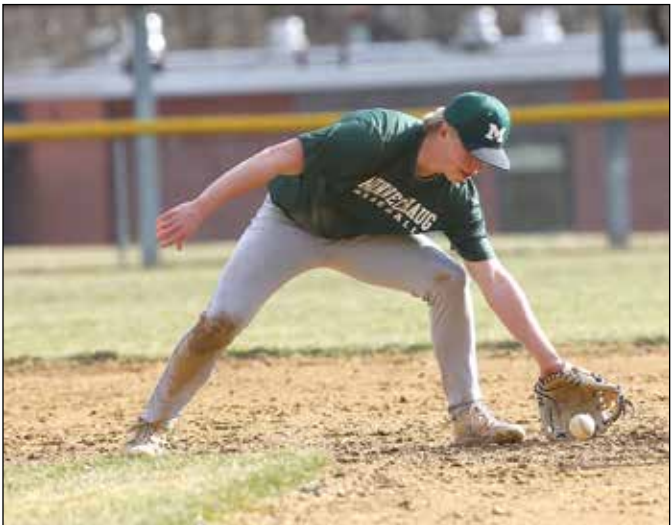
"We hadn't defeated Central in a while, so that was a very big win for us," Netkovick said. "The seniors on last year's team put in a lot of hard work over the years, and it was a very good culmination of their high school careers."

The Falcons postseason journey began with a loss to Pope Francis in the Western Mass. Class A quarterfinals.

Following a 5-4 victory in a non-playoff home game versus Longmeadow, the Falcons season came to an end with a 2-0 loss at Billerica High School in the Division 2 state tournament.

The Falcons were scheduled to open the 2025 regular season by hosting Chicopee Comp in a non-league game on Wednesday afternoon.

"We haven't opened the



Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com
Bryce Barlow stretches to make a play to his left.

season with a home game in a couple of years," Netkovick said. "We're really looking forward to getting our season started."

Netkovick and his players are really looking forward to the second meeting of the regular season against Central, which is scheduled to take place at Dunkin' Park in Hartford on May 8.

"Dunkin' Park is a beautiful Minor League stadium," Netkovick said. "It's really a first rate experience for the kids. That game is already circled on our schedule."

Minnechaug and Central faced each other for the first

time at Dunkin' Park two years ago. Last year's game in Hartford was canceled due to the weather.

The Falcons senior co-captains are Ethan Purcell and Bryce Barlow.

Purcell, who's a righthander, was the starting pitcher in the scrimmage at South Hadley.

"Ethan has been a starting pitcher for us since his sophomore year and is one of our leaders," Netkovick said. "He went 6 2/3 innings in our win at Central last year. He'll probably be our starter against Comp in the season opener."

As a junior, Purcell went

5-3 with a 1.62 ERA. He allowed 13 earned runs in 56 innings and had 59 strikeouts.

Barlow, who's the starting shortstop, is the Falcons lead-off hitter. He had a .447 OBP with five extra base hits (4 doubles, 1 HR) and 22 walks in 21 games a year ago. He also finished last season with 11 RBIs.

"Bryce has a similar resume to Ethan," Netkovick said. "He's been a two year starter for us at shortstop Both of them were selected to the Western Mass All-Star team last year."

The other five seniors are Ben Daniels, Paul Diehl, Aaron Gasteyer, Aiden Rodrigues, and Joe Smith.

"The seniors are a talented group of baseball players," Netkovick added. "All of them have been a part of our program for four years."

A couple other pitchers are junior Evan Liverseidge and Sam Przybyl, who's the only sophomore listed on the varsity baseball roster.

The other six juniors are Ian Angelica, Landyn Eldridge, Jacob Fahey, Drew Grasso, Alex Savlick, and Dylan Secor.

The Falcons assistant coaches are K.J. White and Nick Powers.

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SCHOOL from page 1

town committees and boards.

Provost explained he had communications with other members of town government regarding the communications and advocacy on the state budget process.

“As you know, the state budget process is very much underway and there is a specific package of corrective measures that we’re looking for in the FY26 budget to assist schools in dealing with (a) very difficult financial picture,” Provost said. “One way that the School Committee could do that and coordinate its efforts with other groups in town that may be wishing to express their support for more funding for education in the state budget is through a resolution and so, I would submit the following for your discussion and hopeful approval.”

Provost said the resolution would support increased

FY26 Elementary and Secondary Education Funding, reading the resolution to the committee.

“Whereas, the Hampden-Wilbraham Regional School District, like many other districts across the Commonwealth, is currently experiencing significant financial challenges exacerbated by the limitations of Chapter 70 Funding Formula and, whereas, the financial struggles of 232 districts classified as hold harmless under the Chapter 70 formula have persisted for years resulting in inefficient funding to meet the diverse needs of our students in our communities,” Provost said. “Whereas, the continual rise and required contributions coupled with declining enrollment figures and outdated contribution caps highlights an urgent need for reform in the funding formula to ensure equal and adequate funding for all schools and districts.”

Provost noted the Massachusetts Association of Regional Schools--or MARS--alongside the Massachusetts Association of School Superintendents--or MASS--the Massachusetts Association of School Business Officials--or MASBO--the Massachusetts Teachers Association--or MTA--and the American Federation of Teachers--or AFT--have collaborated “to develop a comprehensive K12 funding proposal aimed at providing immediate relief for FY26.”

“And whereas, this funding proposal seeks to utilize surplus funding from the FY24 Fair Share Act to support essential increases in state-specific budget line items including but not limited to circuit breaker reimbursements, regional school transportation and inflation of the Chapter 70 formula which directly benefits our district and its students,” Provost said. “And whereas, the

proposed measures would not only alleviate the financial burden on Hampden-Wilbraham Regional School District, but also support the broader educational needs across the Commonwealth, particularly in rural districts and those with increased demand for services, and whereas, as the Hampden-Wilbraham Regional School Committee recognizes the importance of advocating for these budgetary measures to ensure that our students receive the quality education that they deserve without compromising essential services and programs.”

Provost then read this.

“Now, therefore, be it resolved that the Hampden-Wilbraham Regional School Committee hereby expresses its strong support for the proposed budgetary measures outlined in K12 funding proposal as put forth by MARS and its partners and be it further resolved that

the Hampden-Wilbraham Regional School Committee urges all stakeholders, including legislators and community members, to advocate for the swift passages of these critical funding measures in the FY26 state budget,” Provost said.

The resolution ended with a copy of this to be forwarded to the Massachusetts State Legislature, the governor’s office and “all relevant educational associations to demonstrate our commitment to securing equitable and adequate funding for the Hampden-Wilbraham Regional School District and all districts across the Commonwealth.”

After the resolution was moved and seconded, Vice Chair Sean Kennedy said, “This is amazing.”

“It’s upsetting when you’re talking about 232 school districts classified as fold harmless and it’s been frustrating for years, John,” Kennedy said. “Thank you so much for

putting this together.”

After Chair Michal Boudreau and Sherrill Caruana expressed their thanks and approval, Timothy Collins said this.

“I hope this passes and I would like us to share this resolution through our various organizations, be it the MTA, Mass Association of Superintendents, Mass Association of School Committees. Let’s share it far and wide and ask other people to join us in this fight for what’s right and just for the students in our (district),” Collins said.

Kennedy proposed taking Collins’s idea a step further.

“Let’s send it to the Select Boards of both towns--right?--and let’s send it to Finance and Advisory in Wilbraham and Hampden and see if we can get more people on board with adopting this,” Kennedy said.

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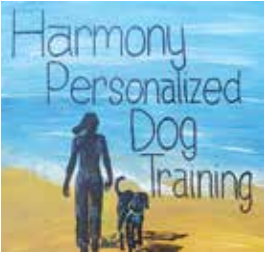
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HELP WANTED

Light Equipment Operator/Laborer

The Granby Highway Department has a 40 hour per week position available for a Light Equipment Operator/Laborer. This position requires the ability to operate various types of machinery, hand tools and equipment (examples include lawnmowers, plows, sanders, asphalt paving equipment). The position is Grade 3 classification. Steps within this grade range from \$18.72- \$24.42 per hour. A valid Massachusetts class A or B CDL driver's license is required. Special consideration will be given to candidates who possess the higher license class, or additional licenses and or relevant construction experience that would be determined to be beneficial to the operations of the Highway Department. Please contact the Highway Superintendent at **413-467-7575** at the **Highway Garage (15 Crescent St, Granby MA 01033)** for further information, a copy of the job description and /or an application for employment. Applications will be accepted through May 1, 2025.

The Town of Huntington is seeking a full-time Chief of Police. \$75,000 - \$90,000 yearly salary based on qualifications. Application and complete job description are available online at **www.huntingtonma.us** or by emailing **admin@huntingtonma.us**. Deadline to apply is 4/28/2025. Town of Huntington is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

TOWN OF WILBRAHAM

Human Resources Coordinator

The Town of Wilbraham is looking for an HR Coordinator to join our team. For application and more info, visit **www.wilbraham-ma.gov**. Application deadline 4/11/2025

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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

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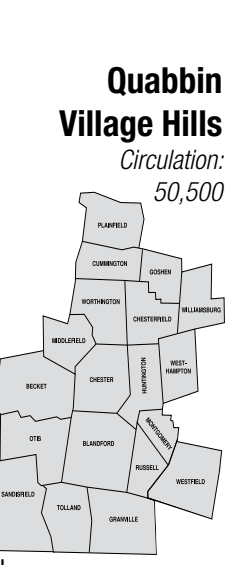
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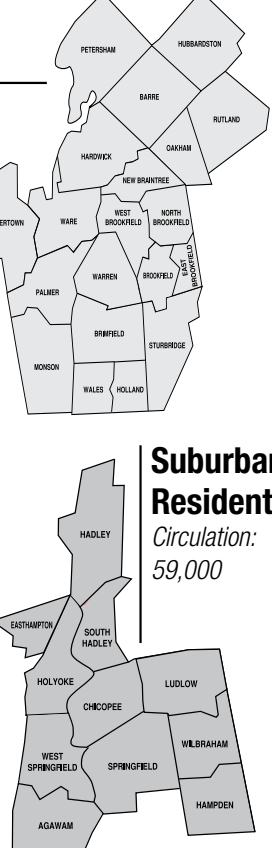
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PUBLIC NOTICES

**Town of Hampden
Notice of Public Hearing**
The Hampden Planning Board will hold a Public Hearing on **Wednesday, April 16, at 6:30 PM** in the Town House, 625 Main Street, Hampden, MA to Amend the Town of Hampden Zoning Bylaw to establish a Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) Bylaw. Information related to this application is on file in the Town Clerk's Office and is available for review by the public during normal business hours.
For the Board,
Madison Pixley,
Chair of the
Hampden Planning Board
03/27, 04/23/2025

**Town of Hampden
Notice of Public Hearing**
The Hampden Planning Board will hold a Public Hearing on **Wednesday, April 16, at 7 PM** in the Town House, 625 Main Street, Hampden, MA to Amend the Town of Hampden Zoning Bylaw to establish an Accessory Dwelling Unit (ADU) Bylaw. Information related to this application is on file in the Town Clerk's Office and is available for review by the public during normal business hours.
For the Board,
Madison Pixley,
Chair of the
Hampden Planning Board
03/27, 04/03/2025

**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 FORMAL
ADJUDICATION**
To all interested persons:
A Petition for **Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **Lee-Ann Sheehan of Monson, 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: **Lee-Ann Sheehan of Monson, 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 04/24/2025. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.
UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)
A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.
WITNESS, Hon. **Barbara M Hyland**, First Justice of this Court.
Date: March 27, 2025
Rosemary A Saccomani,
Register of Probate
04/03/2025

**LEGAL NOTICE
RECORDS TO BE
DESTROYED**
Hampden-Wilbraham Regional School District Office of Student Services will be destroying records for special education students which are outdated. If you received special education services and your birth date is between January 1, 2000 and December 31, 2000, you may request to obtain these records. If you are interested in obtaining your file, please call 279-3801, to schedule an appointment to pick up your file. Outdated records will be destroyed on April 30, 2025.
04/03/2025
**Town of Wilbraham
WILBRAHAM HIGHWAY
MATERIALS 2025**

Notice of Invitation for Bids
The Town of Wilbraham invites sealed bids for the purchase of Wilbraham Highway Materials 2025. Bids must be made in accordance with all applicable Federal, State and Town laws and regulations and must comply in all respects with the instructions, conditions, specifications and other requirements in the Invitation for Bid packages.
Bids packages can be obtained from the Department of Public Works, Town Hall, 240 Springfield Street, Wilbraham, MA 01095 (413-596-2800 x208) on Monday, March 31, 2025. Bids in sealed, opaque envelopes shall be marked **"Wilbraham Highway Materials 2025 Bid"** and delivered to the above address by **3:30 p.m. on Thursday, April 24, 2025** where they will be publicly opened and read aloud by the Chief Procurement Officer. All bids must be submitted on the official Standard Bid Form, included in the bid packages. Bids must include the signed Non-Collusion and Non-Discrimination paperwork. No bidder may withdraw his bid for a period of forty-five days, excluding Saturdays, Sundays and Holidays, after the actual date of opening of the bids.
The Town reserves the right to reject any and all bids, to waive minor informalities or irregularities in any bid, and to make an award in any manner consistent with the law and deemed to be in the best interest of the Town of Wilbraham.
Tonya L. Capparello, P.E.
Director of Public Works/
Town Engineer
04/03/2025

**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.
HD25P0640EA
Estate of:
Tullio G Siniscalchi
Date of Death: 02/15/2025
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 **David W Siniscalchi of Monson, MA** requesting that the Court enter a formal De-

cree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.
The Petitioner requests that: **David W Siniscalchi of Monson, 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 04/24/2025. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.
UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)
A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.
WITNESS, Hon. **Barbara M Hyland**, First Justice of this Court.
Date: March 27, 2025
Rosemary A Saccomani,
Register of Probate
04/03/2025

**Town of Wilbraham
Tree Warden
NOTICE OF
PUBLIC HEARING**
In accordance with Massachusetts General Laws (MGL), Chapter 87, Public Shade Tree Law, Section 3 (Cutting of Public Shade Trees; Hearing; Damages), the Town of Wilbraham Tree Warden will hold a public hearing regarding an application for National Grid to remove public shade trees on **April 17th, 2025 at 6:30pm** at Wilbraham Town Hall conference room. Any

person interested or wishing to be heard on this matter should appear at the time and place designated.
The program included a tree-by-tree hazard assessment of public and private trees, along three-phase lines which serve the community. The work is recommended to remove hazard trees for additional clearance in order to reduce tree outage problems affecting large numbers of customers served by these main lines. National Grid's arborists have identified fifty-five (55) town trees for removal along town roads, and twelve (12) town trees for pruning. Town trees located within the public way that are designated for removal have been marked with a small red ribbon and posted with a notice of public hearing in the field. Trees designated for pruning have been marked with a small blue ribbon.
The roads with town trees affected by the program are Hunting Ln, Springfield St and Stoney Hill Rd. A complete list of town trees designated for removal or pruning including information about the location, size and species of the affected trees and the reason for work proposed, is available weekdays from the Wilbraham Town Hall and public library during normal business hours.
David Graziano, Tree Warden
04/03, 04/10/2025

**Town of Wilbraham
BROOKMONT DRIVE
WATER BOOSTER SYSTEM
2025**
Notice of Invitation for Bids
The Town of Wilbraham invites sealed bids for the purchase of the Brookmont Drive Water Booster System. Bids must be made in accordance with all applicable Federal, State and Town laws and regulations and must comply in all respects with the instructions, conditions, specifications and other requirements in the Invitation for Bid packages.
Bids packages can be obtained from the Department of Public Works, Town Hall, 240 Springfield Street, Wilbraham, MA 01095 (413-596-2800 x208). Bids in sealed, opaque envelopes shall be marked **"Brookmont Drive Water Booster System 2025 Bid"** and delivered to the above address by **3:00 p.m. on Wednesday, April 23, 2025** where they will be publicly opened. All bids must be submitted on the official Standard Bid Form, included in the bid packages. Bids packages must include

the signed Non-Collusion and Non-Discrimination paperwork. No bidder may withdraw his bid for a period of forty-five days, excluding Saturdays, Sundays and Holidays, after the actual date of opening of the bids.
Attendance is required at the pre-bid meeting on Tuesday April 15, 2025 at 1:00 pm at 11V Brookmont Drive, Wilbraham MA 01095.
The Town reserves the right to reject any and all bids, to waive minor informalities or irregularities in any bid, and to make an award in any manner consistent with the law and deemed to be in the best interest of the Town of Wilbraham.
Tonya L. Capparello, P.E.
Director of Public Works/
Town Engineer
04/03/2025

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.

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

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This Week in Rec

Jump-Start Your Baseball Season with Forge Athletics' April Vacation Clinic

Dustin Brisson,
Owner Forge Athletics

WILBRAHAM - Spring is here, and for young baseball players, that means the start of a new season. Forge Athletics is excited to offer a unique opportunity to jump-start the baseball season with our upcoming April vacation clinic. This clinic, taking place on Tuesday, April 22 to Thursday April 24 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Spec Pond in Wilbraham will be an all-around camp de-

signed to build a strong foundation for the season ahead.

At Forge Athletics, we are passionate about growing the game of baseball in western Massachusetts. I consider it an honor and a privilege to get a chance to coach young athletes and be a part of our community's growth. This clinic is the perfect way for players to shake off the winter rust and fine-tune their skills before the season starts. Whether you're looking to improve your pitching, hitting, defense, throwing, or base running, our clinic

covers it all!

Our coaches bring a wealth of experience and knowledge to the clinic. We're thrilled to have Rich "El Guapo" Garcés, a 12-year Major League veteran and Red Sox fan favorite to work with our young pitchers and cover throwing fundamentals. We will also have Ace Adams working with our pitching and defensive stations. Ace has over 25 years of coaching experience at all levels of professional baseball. Dan Gomez will be working in all areas of the camp, has been

the head coach of the Western New England University Golden Bears for the last 13 years. Other coaches include Bryan Barnowski, Dave Wendt and Dustin Brisson who each have over 5 years of professional baseball experience. We will be working with catchers, infielders and hitting stations. With our expert guidance, players will receive top tier coaching and insights that will help them improve their game and gain confidence going into the season.

We are proud to be sup-

ported by local businesses like Lia Toyota of Wilbraham, Action Chiropractic & Physical Therapy, T.F. Performance and Family Care Counseling Associates in Wilbraham, whose generosity makes events like this possible. Their commitment to supporting youth sports helps foster an environment where our athletes can thrive.

This clinic is an incredible opportunity for young players to get a head start on their season. By the end of the clinic, participants will leave with

new skills, greater confidence, and a love for the game that will last all season long.


Registration is open at WilbrahamRec.com through April 14th or scan the QR code below.

We look forward to seeing you there!



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CABARET from page 1

choreography by Jaqui Panascian, and stage management by Joe Lessard.

Matrision's portrayal of the Emcee brings a bright and unique energy to the show and he has this amazing flair in all of his many jackets.

Averill does a phenomenal job at portraying the complexity of Sally Bowles, all while being an amazing all-rounder for the Players with her vocals.

For Morey in the role of Cliff Bradshaw, he is portrayed so well, a phenomenal actor and is the moon to Sally's sun.

Greene as Fraulein Schneider, meanwhile, is a vocal powerhouse, especially in her number "What Would You Do?" She brings down the house.

Crowe as Ernst Ludwig is the perfect mix of fun, yet eerie at the same time. His work as Ludwig is something to truly remember.

Lebelle as Herr Schultz creates the sweetest Schultz to take any form of "Cabaret" in Western Massachusetts.

For Wilson's role, she does a brilliant job switching from the strong woman that is Fraulein Kost to the party life portrayed by Fritzie.

The Kit Kat Boys and

Girls also take the stage in large group numbers, bringing more flair to the stage and lighting up the room with their energy. The number is full of all-around amazing singers and dancers with great facial expressions and help keep the energy up throughout the production.

The Wilbraham United Players did a phenomenal job working on this production for all of Western Massachusetts and it has a very important message that everyone should take away from it.

Tickets are still available for the April 4, 5 and 6 shows, so get them soon before they're gone.

The April 4 and 5 shows are at 7:30 p.m. and the April 6 show—the grand finale show for this production—is at 2:30 p.m. All shows take place at the Fellowship Hall Stage at Wilbraham United Church and reserved seating—including cabaret tables—are available.

Tickets are available now at www.wilbrahamunitedplayers.org.

WUP is, also, looking forward to bringing back their youth theater, the Young United Players, with "Seussical Jr.," with auditions April 25, 26 and 27, and performances in July.

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374-6254

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SINGLE FAMILY LISTINGS				
STATUS	ADDRESS	DESCRIPTION	LIST PRICE	SOLD PRICE
ACT	12 Federal St. Extension, Agawam	8 room, 3 bed, 1f 1h bath Dutch Colonial	\$499,900	
ACT	2 Anna Marie Lane, E. Longmeadow	8 room, 4 bed, 2f, 1h bath Colonial	\$897,500	
ACT	313 Bennett Rd., Hampden	7 room, 3 bed, 2f, 1h bath Cape	\$525,000	
ACT	117 Buckingham St., Springfield	10 room, 7 bed, 1f, 1h bath Colonial	\$269,900	
ACT	21 Mountainbrook Rd., Wilbraham	7 room, 4 bed, 2f, 0h bath Colonial	\$460,999	
CTG	287 Allen St., East Longmeadow	5 room, 3 bed, 1f 0h bath Ranch	\$339,900	
CTG	117 Monrovia St., Springfield	6 room, 4 bed, 1f, 1h bath Cape	\$289,900	
UAG	28 Dover St., Agawam	5 room, 3 bed, 1f 0h bath Ranch	\$314,900	
UAG	90 Angela Dr., Chicopee	7 room, 3 bed, 2f 1h bath Colonial	\$475,000	
UAG	84 Cote Rd., Monson	7 room, 3 bed, 2f 0h bath Colonial	\$359,999	
UAG	170 Blanche St., Springfield	6 room, 3 bed, 1f, 1h bath Ranch	\$364,900	
UAG	27 Oakland St., Wilbraham	8 room, 4 bed, 2f, 1h bath Colonial	\$489,900	
SLD	8 Andrew Cir., Hampden	6 room, 3 bed, 2f, 0h bath Ranch	\$729,900	\$805,000
SLD	70 Moody St., Ludlow	4 room, 2 bed, 1f, 0h bath Ranch	\$255,000	\$255,000
SLD	210 Moulton Hill Rd., Monson	7 room, 3 bed, 2f, 0h bath Colonial	\$450,000	\$435,000
SLD	128 Tiffany St., Springfield	6 room, 3 bed, 1f 0h bath Cape	\$299,900	\$304,000
SLD	299 Stony Hill Rd., Wilbraham	8 room, 4 bed, 2f, 0h bath Antique	\$374,900	\$375,000

CONDOMINIUM LISTINGS				
STATUS	ADDRESS	DESCRIPTION	LIST PRICE	SOLD PRICE
SLD	5 Southwood Cir., U:5, Hampden	4 room, 2 bed, 2f, 0h bath Garden	\$399,900	\$408,000
SLD	308 Miller St., U:17, Ludlow	4 room, 2 bed, 2f, 0h bath Garden, Half-Duplex	\$408,000	\$400,000
SLD	101 Mulberry St., U:502, Springfield	3 room, 1 bed, 1f, 0h bath Mid-Rise	\$84,999	\$91,000
SLD	270 Nassau Dr., U:270, Springfield	4 room, 2 bed, 1f, 0h bath Garden	\$224,900	\$225,000

MULTI FAMILY LISTINGS				
STATUS	ADDRESS	DESCRIPTION	LIST PRICE	SOLD PRICE
UAG	141-143 Berkshire St., Springfield	2 unit, 11 total rooms, 6 total bedrooms 2 Family - 2 Units Side by Side	\$315,000	
SLD	15 Page Ct., Chicopee	2 unit, 13 total rooms, 4 total bedrooms 2 Family	\$435,000	\$400,000
SLD	13-19 South St., Palmer	4 unit, 18 total rooms, 9 total bedrooms 4 Family	\$379,000	\$310,000

COMMERCIAL LISTINGS				
STATUS	ADDRESS	DESCRIPTION	LIST PRICE	SOLD PRICE
SLD	2703 Boston Rd., Wilbraham	Commercial Building	\$385,000	\$355,000

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