

TOWN
Eclipse watch party
Page 12

SPORTS
Boys volleyball in action
Page 15

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



The full cast of the spring production "The Mystery of Edwin Drood," performed by the Wilbraham United Players, on stage during their April 2 rehearsal.

Turley photos by Kristin Rivers

Wilbraham United Players prepping for 'The Mystery of Edwin Drood'

Tickets are available now

By Kristin Rivers
Editor
krivers@turley.com

WILBRAHAM - The Wilbraham United Players were hard at work on April 2 during their rehearsal of "The Mystery of Edwin Drood."

A musical by Rupert Holmes, "The Mystery of Edwin Drood" is based on the unfinished novel of the same name by Charles Dickens and centers on a mystery surrounding the murder of Edwin Drood.

It is the first musical with multiple endings determined by audience

vote, with the original Broadway production produced by the New York Shakespeare Festival and Joseph Papp as producer.

The shows are on April 12, 13 and 14 and April 19, 20 and 21 at the Fellowship Hall Stage at Wilbraham United Church. Friday and Saturday night shows are at 7:30 p.m., while Sunday matinees are at 2:30 p.m.

Jim Martin, the show's production chair, has been with the players since 2017, explaining the rehearsal focused on Act II, where the audience would vote for who the murderer is.

"There are several cast members who could be the murderer in the show. There's also the possibility of certain characters that end up in love together, and so the audience

gets to weigh in on who fills those roles and that is unlike anything that we've ever done with the Wilbraham Players," Martin said. "We're looking forward to seeing what the audiences in Wilbraham think of that. We think they'll have a lot of fun."

Martin expressed gratitude for the local theater groups in the area, including the players, as they help foster connections and discover local talent in many areas including singing, dancing, fundraising and organizing.

"It's just wonderful. I think it helps towns be really unique. It's part of the fabric of the community that you live in," Martin said. "This cast is from all over the Pioneer Val-

Please see **THEATRE**, page 9

Beatlemania takes over Hampden Senior Center



Turley photos by Harrison Giza

One Beatlemania fan and her George Harrison replica doll

By Harrison Giza
Staff Writer
hgiza@turley.com

HAMPDEN- The senior center was crowded on April 4 to check out "A Cultural & Historical Reflection of the 1960's Through the Music of the Beatles."

The afternoon was led by Fran Hart, founding member of 4EVERFAB, through a multi-media presentation that highlights the influence The Beatles had on world culture, particularly during the 1960's.

From singing "I Saw Her Standing There" in unison with the audience, to riffing away the entire Ed Sullivan setlist, Hart knocked it of the park that day through passion and education.

"When The Beatles met producer George Martin," Hart said. "They did not really know much about music theory. They did not know how to read or write music. If it sounded good, then they knew how to get it."

Hart made sure to detail what sets his band, 4EVERFAB, apart from other Beatles-savvy acts.

"We tell the stories behind the songs in-between our request," Hart said.

However, it wasn't all brains at the senior Center, and Hart made sure to mix in some funny jokes along the way.

"Why didn't the other Beatles invite Ringo to dinner?" Hart asked the smiling crowd. "Because he wouldn't share the drumsticks... I like to call George the Rodney Dangerfield of The Beatles because he doesn't get no respect. Why? Frank Sinatra, says 'wow Something, my

Please see **BEATLES**, page 4

HISTORICAL WILBRAHAM

The Center Village hosted a small hotel

Industry in North Wilbraham took hold in the 19th century

By Charles F. Bennett
Times Editor Emeritus

In this month's column we are continuing to reminisce through town history books picking out important, and some not so important, stories and events about our past, and matching them up with what



Charlie Bennett

was going on in the world at the time.

Manufacturing Companies

Although Wilbraham used to be a farm town as evidenced in our last column on March 7 highlighting the peach industry, there was manufacturing also going on at the turn of the last century.

In his 1913 history book, author Chauncey Peck listed four manufacturing companies and their valuation to the town as of 1911:

Collins Paper Co.	\$310,650
Cutler Co.	49,850
Ludlow Mfg. Co.	213,725
Wilbraham Woolen Co.	16,500

According to Peck the Wilbraham Woolen Co. was destroyed by fire on May 14, 1893. Wilbraham historian Dave

Bourcier, author of the "Wilbraham Historic Tidbits" website also noted the passing of the mill which he said was rented in 1863 by Dwight Ellis. The small mill was located off Crane Hill Road, near Eleven Mile brook in North Wilbraham. The mill burned down 1 1/2 years later. "This small mill was most likely the mill erected by Jonathan Kilborn who in 1803 placed in service a carding machine, brought from Mendon, Massachusetts," wrote Bourcier on his website.

A carding machine was used in early woolen mills. It consists mainly of one big roller with smaller ones surrounding it. All of the rollers are covered with small teeth, and as the cotton progresses further on, the teeth get finer (i.e. closer together).



The Allis Hotel on Main Street in the Center Village, circa 1885-1899, is where the new building is being erected in the center of town. The hotel was destroyed by fire in 1899. Next door is Burt Lane and the long-gone Congregational Church where Gazebo Park is now. Main Street wasn't paved back then.

The cotton leaves the carding machine in the form of fibers.

Please see **HISTORICAL**, page 5

GRAND OPENING

New Wilbraham Senior Center

Saturday April 20, 2024 10:00 am



Join us as we celebrate the long awaited Grand Opening of our new Senior Center! Come see our new commercial kitchen and multi-purpose room (for luncheons, large meetings, rental opportunities, and more), café, fitness/exercise and wellness rooms, game room with billiard tables, library lounge, activity rooms, outside patio and bocce court. And so much more!!!

Day 1 ~ Grand Opening & Ribbon Cutting

WHERE: 250 Springfield St - Behind Town Hall
 WHEN: **Saturday, April 20, 2024**
 TIME: 10:00 am Ribbon Cutting
 Open House to 1:00 pm
 PARKING: Senior Center Parking Lot and Town Hall Parking Area

Day 2 ~ Open House

WHEN: **Sunday, April 21, 2024**
 TIME: 11:00 - 1:00 pm

RAIN, SNOW OR SHINE BOTH DAYS!

Questions - Call 413-596-8379
 Ad produced and paid for by Friends of Wilbraham Seniors, Inc.

Government Study Committee Holds Public Meeting

By Harrison Giza
 Staff Writer
 hgiza@turley.com

HAMPDEN - The Government Study Committee hosted its second Community Forum on April 4 from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. in the Town House Auditorium.

Members of the GSC, Cliff Bombard, Michal Boudreau, Eric Brewer, Donna Hatch, John Matthews, Keith Pixley, Luis Severino and Selectboard member John Flynn, were in attendance.

Selectman Flynn had this to say about the future of Open Meeting Laws in Hampden, when asked if he believed the board had been running into recent problems.

"The key parts, every one of our decisions are considered in public, and of course at that meeting and on the agenda. The one time we might make a suggestion, hey, person A, can we put this on the agenda for the next posted meeting? We do not ask for a decision, we do not ask for any discussion about it, but let's bring it out in front for the public," Flynn said.

Flynn was then asked if he believed that, considering he in fact is a selectman, that maybe he had too much to do.

"No," Flynn said. "We unanimously approved putting all the recommendations of the committee on the mark for the town meeting in recognition of the work that they did. They may have personal feelings about each one or something, but you guys worked hard for over a year, so you deserve your day in the public... your 15 minutes or whatever Andy Warhol said."

Prior to the meeting, the GSC held their October 2022 Special Town Meeting, where the town voted to authorize the creation of a Government Study Committee, appointed by the moderator, to review all aspects of Hampden town government and to issue a report with any recommendations to the Annual Town Meeting in May 2024.

One of the first, and a major change for the town, would be changing the name of the Board of Selectmen to the Select Board and Select Board Member.

Committee member Donna Hatch had this to say.

"If you look across a lot of cities and towns you'll see lots of Select Board and Select Board Members," said Hatch. "One of the hurdles I guess would have to be that the planning board would have to have a public hearing. So, given their schedule between now and May, that is is one of the impediments that might push one piece to the fall. It is really up to the board whether

they do genera bylaws in May or Zoning bylaws in the fall or push the whole thing to the fall or whatever, we have not been informed on any decision of that yet."

Hatch assured the public that they were in good hands.

"In no way does this moving from elected to appointed preclude the folks that we have in positions now from being appointed," Hatch said. "And this would not take effect until 2025."

The "In Conclusion" and key findings provided on the the 19th page of the GSC Report are as follows: Move to a "Strong" TA (Town Administrator), change the Board of Selectmen from three members



Turley photo by Harrison Giza
Government Study Committee members responding to the public regarding future concerns for the town.

to five, change positions from elected to appointed for Town Clerk, Treasurer and Tax Collector, combine Treasurer and Tax Collector Positions, and to, quote, "allow Voting Methods Besides a Show of Hands."

One other concern addressed was the possibility of someone from outside of the town becoming a future Select Board member.

"These positions are becoming highly skilled and more technical," Hatch said. "There are people that have the skill sets and training to fulfill these roles, and we just think it is important that the town is able to avail itself to the best candidate. If the best candidate lives in Hampden, great, but if the best candidate lives outside the borders of Hampden, we should have that opportunity to make that decision."

The intent of the Forum is to provide residents the opportunity to review the report and engage in discussion prior to Town Meeting. The committee continues to briefly present the results of their studies with findings and recommendations throughout the year.

The report can be found on the town website at https://www.hampdenma.gov/sites/g/files/vyhlf656/ff/news/gsc_report_to_hampden_final_032024.pdf.

Residents are encouraged to read the report and participate in the discussion.

Via Appia

LIVE MUSIC

Friday, 4.12 • Fred Marion
 Saturday, 4.13 • Luther
 Friday, 4.19 • Luther
 Saturday, 4.20 • Brad Shepard

2133 Boston Road, Wilbraham
 Reservations Recommended 413.271.1208

Open Mon.-Thurs. 11am-9pm
 Fri. & Sat. 11am-10pm • Sun. 12-8pm

Experience the **Soul of Italy** with the freshest ingredients, traditional recipes, homemade pasta and desserts.

Dinner Specials
 Every Friday and Saturday

Board of Selectmen reopens, reviews town warrant

Ballot questions also reviewed and approved

By Kristin Rivers
Editor
krivers@turley.com

HAMPDEN - The Board of Selectmen reopened and reviewed the town warrant on April 8 ahead of this year's Annual Town Meeting.

Annual Town Meeting takes place on May 13 at 7 p.m. at Thornton W. Burgess Middle School.

As the board began the review, Selectman Craig Rivest suggested swapping articles 13 and 14 concerning the expansion of the water district.

"I think we got to vote for the expansion first and then the district expansion size second. That's the way it was in 2001 when we expanded the district," Rivest said. "If it doesn't pass the first one, there's no chance in using the map size."

Selectman John Flynn thought the water district needed three questions.

"I thought we needed a question for the map and then a question for Phase A and then a question for Phase B. Because if this 14 fails, you can't do the pump house, you can't even connect the ones on Scantic Road,"

Flynn said.

After Rivest wondered if they were still asking for the full amount if it was broken into phases, Flynn said the motion could be revised if the first item passed.

"Which does not require an override, per the town treasurer, because he can fit that into borrowing over three years, because you're only at that point borrowing \$700,000, well outside the levy limit, over a three-year note," Flynn said. "Then we would revise the amount asked for for the full expansion down by the \$1.2 million."

Another highlight was article 15, with Chair Donald Davenport explaining he spoke with the town council, who also spoke with the governor's office, regarding moratorium approvals.

"But they did say many towns are getting bylaws passed for battery, energy storage systems and they would suggest that we do that quickly and they will send us some examples of ones that passed," Davenport said.

Davenport added a committee may need to be set up at some point to review the bylaw.

As the town warrant review continued on other items including funding for the town's 150th, two articles from the Government Study Commit-

tee, the motion to close the warrant passed 3-0.

Next, this year's ballot questions were reviewed.

They are to allow borrowing for the expansion of the senior center, to allow borrowing for the water district expansion and two questions from the Government Study Committee about changing elected positions to appointed.

On the senior center expansion question, Flynn suggested changing the language to mention renovations.

"The committee's made it very clear that renovations are part of the project," Flynn said.

The next three ballot questions were straightforward and did not require any changes.

After Rivest asked who writes the explanations for a yes or no vote, he expressed concerns about how voters would understand questions one and two.

"I worry that people are going to get lost in the legal phrasing of it and not understand what their vote's going to do," Rivest said.

Davenport and Flynn disagreed with Davenport adding the state does books explaining votes.

"We haven't done that. I suppose we could," Davenport said.

The election ballot was approved 3-0.

Democratic Town Committee holding town caucus April 12

HAMPDEN - The Democratic Town Committee in Hampden will be holding a caucus in the Town Hall, 625 Main St, Hampden, on April 12 from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. for the purpose of nominating candidates for the Annual Town Election.

Republican Town Committee holding town caucus April 11

HAMPDEN -The Republican Town Committee in Hampden will be holding a caucus in the Town Hall, 625 Main St, Hampden, on April 11 from 4 to 6 p.m. for the purpose of nominating candidates for the Annual Town Election.



PHONE

413.283.8393
Fax: 413.289.1977
Subscriptions: 413.283.8393

EMAIL

Advertising Sales
Jocelyn Walker
jwalker@turley.com

Editor

Kristin Rivers
krivers@turley.com

Subscriptions

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

WEB

www.wilbrahamhampdentimes.turley.com

@ Wilbraham-Hampden Times

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



2039 Boston Road, Wilbraham
Open: Sun.-Wed. 11:30am-9pm
Thurs.-Sat. 11:30am-10pm
~ BAR OPEN LATE ~
413-279-1198 • thelocaltabletap.com

NEW! SUNDAY BRUNCH
Every Sunday 10am-2pm
A special brunch menu along with our regular menu items
Bloody Marys • Mimosas • Peach Bellinis



MONDAY NIGHT SPECIAL
Burger & Beer \$15



PARTIES & BANQUETS
We can accommodate 25-90 people for your special event.



DOUBLE POINTS TUESDAY!

- Earn 1 point for EVERY dollar you spend!
- Earn \$5 CREDIT when you reach 200 points!
- Receive email notices about special events and discounts
- FREE DESSERT on your birthday week!

JOIN OUR REWARDS PROGRAM TODAY!

Just click the widget on our site to join today - it's easy and free!



thelocaltabletap.com



THE BEST FRESH FOR SPRING PLANTING!

Smiling Pretty Pansies & Violas
Cold Weather Tolerant
Pots, Bowls, Packs & Hanging Baskets

SPRING BLOOMING TREES & SHRUBS
Forsythia, Rhododendrons, Dogwood, Azalea & MORE!

Perennial Plants
For The Garden That Blooms Year After Year
Spring Bloomers
Creeping Phlox, Columbine, Winter Rose Helleborus, Bleeding Heart, Dianthus

Vegetable Plants Locally Grown
Cold Weather Tolerant
Onions, Lettuce, Cabbage, Broccoli & More!

The Dirt On Dirt 20% OFF SOILS

Coast of Maine Organic Soils
Mixes For Indoor & Outdoor Planting
Fafard Soils For Gardens & Containers
Hoffman Specialty Soil Mixes & Amendments
African Violet, Cactus & Orchid Mixes



Specials April 10 - April 16

Sweet Red Peppers.....	\$1.99 lb.
Fresh Green Beans.....	\$1.49 lb.
Grape Tomatoes Pint Size.....	2 for \$4
Seedless Hot House Cucumbers.....	2 for \$3
Yellow and Zucchini Squash.....	\$1.49 lb.
Honeycrisp Apples.....	\$1.99 lb.
Cantaloupes Extra Large Size.....	\$2.99 ea.
Boar's Head Deluxe Ham.....	\$10.99 lb.
Boar's Head Lacey Swiss Cheese...	\$10.99 lb.

ALWAYS FRESH AT



631 CENTER ST., Route 21, Mass Tpke Exit 54
LUDLOW • 589-7071 • www.randallsfarm.net
OPEN EVERY DAY 7AM - 8PM
Find us on and



4EVERFAB member, Fran Hart, riffing with the crowd about some of The Beatles psychedelic cuts on some album about peppers or something.



Activities Coordinator Diane Marino, holding up a Beatles-inspired sign that one of the pre-k students made for attendees that night.



Richard Gilday, thought the event was terrific and hopes to see more great stuff like this at the Hampden Senior Center.



Fran Hart shredding through Revolver was worth the price of admission alone, but his stories and band history knowledge sets his apart from most local acts.



The Hampden Senior Center was well decorated, with Beatles magazines, posters, records, and refreshments for those who drove out.

Monson Arts Council presents

30TH ANNUAL SPRING ART EXHIBITION & SALE

\$4,500 AWARDED IN PRIZES!

APRIL 20-21, 27-28
MAY 4-5

NOON TO 5PM

HOUSE OF ART & MEMORIAL HALL
200 MAIN STREET, MONSON MA

LEARN MORE ON OUR WEBSITE
WWW.MONSONARTSCOUNCIL.ORG

Monson Savings For more than 150 years Turley Publications, Inc.

Sunset Silhouette - by Rosemary Polletta

BEATLES from page 1

favorite Lennon-McCartney composition.' Can you believe that?"

Hart then detailed that the song "Come Together" was written as a campaign song for acidhead icon, Timothy Leary, as well as what made the group stand out from other acts at the time.

"One of the things I like about The Beatles, among a million other different things, is that their albums never sound the same, from album to album," Hart said. "McCartney was the idea guy with The Beatles. He was the Sargent Pepper man, McCartney was Magical Mystery Tour man, McCartney was Get Back, which became Let It Be. He was always pushing it."

Hart's breakdown of the group and their infamous White Album was truly educational.

"Well it is not called The White Album, it is called The Beatles," Hart said. "That is the official name for it, self-titled, why do we call it The White Album? Well, it is all white, and down at the bottom of the corner you have you see the label there that says The Beatles. But nobody paid attention to that, so we just called it The White Album."

A crowd member spoke up, after many people had drawn attention to her throughout the night.

"My brother came in from New York last night he said I got something for you. You know, we never found your 1964 Beatles doll and I said 'oh my gosh, did you buy one?' He said I saw this one in the window... guess where I am going tomorrow!" she said.

Richard Gilday, Beatle fan and event attendee, had nothing but praise.

"I thought it was very, very good," Gilday said. "I thought that this man was very, very interesting, he had a great handle on all the chords to all the songs, and he didn't just play straight chords he played a lot of augmented chords. His knowledge of The Beatles... he probably could have spoken or another 2 or 3 hours knowing what he knew. It was very interesting and very fun to listen to."

Gilday grew up in the hey-hey-heydays of The Beatles and their cultures change. He remembers it like it was yesterday.

"My father often said that he wouldn't go across the street to listen to The Beatles," Gilday said. "But I was so hooked on them and they were more like a movement that you felt instead of just watching them, you felt what they were playing and it was crazy. I think the reaction of all the people that watched them, it had an effect on everyone too."

Many people left the event with a smile on their faces, singing and laughing on their way out the door. Activities Coordinator, Diane Marino, hopes to make something like this happen again soon.

"This completely exceeded my expectations," Marino said. "We are so thankful for Fran and his work here tonight. This was fantastic."

Join us for the
Wilbraham & Monson Academy
MIDDLE AND UPPER SCHOOL
PREVIEW
NIGHT

Tuesday, April 30
6-7 p.m.

Learn more about our programs and community. Meet faculty and students.
For families interested in Grades 6-12, PG.

MIDDLE SCHOOL PREVIEW
Middle School building

UPPER SCHOOL PREVIEW
Mattern Science Center

RSVP: wma.us/preview

Theatre Guild of Hampden's 'Oklahoma!' a comedic, sassy blast of fun

By Kristin Rivers

Editor

kristin@turley.com

HAMPDEN - If you haven't seen the Theatre Guild of Hampden's production of "Oklahoma!" yet, you are in for a fun treat.

Co-directed by Mark Giza and Christopher Rojas, the production could not have had a more perfect setting at the Red Barn at Fountain Park in Wilbraham. The barn provides the perfect backdrop for the classic Rodgers and Hammerstein musical, strewn with hay bales, festive country singing and cast members from head-to-toe in cowboy attire.

Welcome to the territory, indeed.

From the very first notes of "Oh, What a Beautiful Mornin'" strummed on guitar by Joey Valencourt as cowboy Curly, the audience is transported to a different time and place, witnessing the story of Laurey Williams, played by Ally Reardon, who must choose between Curly and the intense, at times frightening, farmhand Jud Fry, played by Nick Adams.

A subplot with Will Parker, played by Max Levheim, and Ado Annie Carnes, played by Dominique Libera, is also worthy of note due to the obstacles

they must overcome to finally settle down together, including the surprise suitor in Ali Hakin, played by Joe Lessard, in a performance eliciting hilarity and entertaining drama for a memorable secondary character.

One, also, cannot forget the hilarious, nail-biting, commanding performances between Levheim and Lessard during the presents sequence, where Parker is working to get the \$50 to secure Ado Annie's hand again as part of a deal with her father, Andrew Carnes, played by Ben Bump.

Libera's Ado Annie also commands the stage with flirtation and innocence, not realizing what she's getting herself into. Her renditions of "I Cain't Say No" and its encore provide a glimpse into her character and a big flaw Ado Annie will have to overcome to secure the man she always loved and disappoint another she also comes to love.

Meanwhile, Kathy Renaud, who plays Aunt Eller, was a true showstopper and scene-stealer, providing laughter and sass with every interaction. The audience could not resist bursting into laughter, myself included, every time Aunt Eller stepped out on stage to keep the men in line.

She, especially, held her own against Adams' performance as Jud Fry during the auction scene



Turley photos by Kristin Rivers

Christopher Rojas, co-director of the Theatre Guild of Hampden's production of "Oklahoma!", welcomes the audience during opening night on April 5.

with grace, protectiveness and desperation as the suspense built for who would win Laurey's auction item.

Speaking of Jud Fry, at one moment, you almost feel sympathy for him during "Pore Jud is Daid," showing the humanity of a romantic rival who wants to be loved and to love someone in return.

Emphasis on almost, in a truly underrated, rousing and thought-provoking performance from Adams that makes you look beyond the typical villain trope.

Reardon's rendition of Laurey, meanwhile, is relatable from start to finish, showcasing an independent and fiery woman weaved with vulnerability. Her ability to capture quiet inner strength, sass and a huge shot of confidence and courage when confronting Jud Fry is a story of extraordinary character development.

At some points, you felt you were, also, watching an old-time romantic comedy with the way Laurey and Curly fought, with Reardon and Valencourt's per-

formances making you want to cheer for them every step of the way.

Beyond the singing and acting, the dancing was in sync and phenomenal, especially when the cast would face the audience and sing and dance in front of you, making for an unforgettable, interactive experience.

For the square dancing during "The Farmer and the Cowman," it makes you want to show off your best moves, providing a variety of comedy, drama and, of course, bruised egos between the farmers and cowmen.

On the "Dream Sequence" with "Melos," "Out of My Dreams," "Interlude to Ballet" and "Dream Ballet," it was like a silent hush washed over the audience, so quiet you could hear a pin drop. This is one part of the musical where words are not needed, as the flawless dance movements speak volumes to the audience about the turmoil, confusion, fear and anxiety of choosing between two men.

As someone who was watching "Oklahoma!" for the first time, having heard of the musical and never watching it until this production, it was a magnificent first encounter. Giza and Rojas should take a bow alongside the cast because this is a musical experience you will never forget.

A true 10/10.

HISTORICAL from page 1

What was going on in the world in 1893 when the Woolen Co. mill burned down? Hawaii was proclaimed a republic and annexed by treaty to the United States; in music American songwriter Cole Porter was born and classical composer Tchaikovsky died. Henry Ford built his first car. The longest recorded boxing fight took place on April 6 and 7 in New Orleans, Andy Bowen vs. Jack Burk took 110 rounds in 7 hours and 4 minutes and ended in a draw.

The Allis Hotel

Now that the new building construction of the Parfumi restaurant in the center of town, to be named Center Village, is nearing completion, it's a good time to remember that the Allis Hotel occupied the same land first.

That part of the Center is important to my family and its why I like to pass on stories about it. My parents rented an apartment over Tiffany's Lunch Box that replaced the Allis Hotel. Tiffany's was across the street from the Mobil Gas Station. My parents moved there with me after the War while my father Francis Bennett and grandfather, Frank Bennett ran the Bennett Turkey Farm. I was just a toddler then, but remember looking out the window onto Burt Lane and watching the noisy fire engine go down the street. That would have been in the late 1940's.

The Allis was mentioned in the Charles Merrick-edited "History of Wilbraham" written at the town's bicentennial in 1963.

The hotel, operated by a Mrs. Allis, was often referred to as a "boarding house". It was in operation in 1892 and destroyed by fire sometime around 1899. In its folksy style the book described Mrs. Allis as "a quiet, religious woman". She and her family lived in what we know today as the Old Meeting House Museum at the corner of Main Street and Mountain Road.

The museum had been the Methodist Meeting House before being converted to a residence.

The Wilbraham Atheneum Society eventually took over the old meeting house and made a museum of Wilbraham history out of it. As a member of the Historic Commission, I was asked to serve

57 Years Ago

New Lutheran Mission

Here is a news clipping reported by my mom, Ethel M. Bennett, who was the Wilbraham correspondent for the Springfield daily newspaper The Morning Union from the 1940s through 1970s. From an April 1967 edition: "The new Lutheran mission, "Christ the King Lutheran Church" will hold its first worship service Sunday at 10 a.m. at Wilbraham Grange Hall, Rev. David R. Cote, pastor said Thursday.

Services will be every Sunday at the same time and place. The second in a series of group meetings for those interested in joining the new mission will be at the parsonage at 10 Mountainbrook Road tonight at 7:30."

on the Atheneum Board of Trustees a few years ago as liaison to the town and I now help them develop programs and host guest speakers at their open houses. Retired fire chief and historian Dave Bourcier now serves as its popular president and history buffs Peter Ablondi, Sandy Sanders and Lucy Peltier are past presidents.

The Allis Hotel was a typical, small New England town hotel and tavern patronized by visitors to Wilbraham Academy and travelers from all over.

Traveling Salesmen

The Merrick book says the hotel offered rooms to traveling salesmen who came to town and rented a horse and buggy from the livery stable owned by Fred Green who was a beloved Wilbraham Selectman for many years. Green operated a stagecoach to transport out-of-town academy students from the train station in North Wilbraham to the Academy on Main Street.

The book relates, "Mrs. Allis specialized in serving good meals and many of the local town folk ate there on occasion. The second floor of the hotel was the rooming area with practically every room opening out on the second floor veranda. Dances were held every two weeks, as



Civil War veteran and author Chauncey Peck (Times file photo)

was so in most country hotels. Music was provided by local talent."

An anecdote about the hotel is worth repeating here. Before the hotel burned down, business began to fall off. There was a handy man who lived at the hotel and did odd jobs named Jerry Long. Jerry was described as a big, lumbering, slow-moving individual who usually wore carpet slippers.

On the night of the fire it was reported that Jerry came rushing out into Main Street, still pulling on his britches, where he encountered Mrs. Allis with: "Why the hell didn't you tell me you were going to burn it down?"

At the time of the 1899 fire Oscar Wilde wrote "The Importance of Being Ernest", which is coincidental, because we just attended the same play at The Majestic in West Springfield and it was as enjoyable today as I'm sure it was at the turn of the century.

Small Notes

Chauncey Peck liked to mention his own historical tidbits in his 1913 book. He quoted some items from the Massachusetts Register, published in 1814. (Please note that printed spelling and capitalization was inconsistent back in the 18th century). Here are a few notes: "Samuel Warner was the Wilbraham Precinct "Clark", what we know today as a "clerk". His first entry was made on March 15, 1734.

His last entry was made August 28, 1783. "For 49 years and five months, the faithful "clerk" performed his labor of love. And 12 days after his last entry he laid down his pen forever at the age of 75. A French and Indian War veteran, he is buried in Adams Cemetery."

"On May the 1st 1778 there was the Body of a Man found in the Rivver between Lodlo (Ludlow) and Wilbraham and a Jurey of inquest set on it and brought in was some sarpint (snake) laid on him was the casion of his Death 1778."

The Revolutionary War ended the same year that Warner died in 1783' and Mozart created his "Mass in C minor"

Remembering Tom Sullivan

Former Selectman Kevin Moriarty called me last month to make sure I knew former town employee Tom Sullivan had passed away Feb. 12 at the age of 75. Tom saved the town a lot of money over the years, said Kevin.

Sullivan finished his 55-year career at the Town of Wilbraham where he eventually retired from his positions as the Assistant Town Administrator of Budget & Finance and Collector/Treasurer after playing integral roles in budgeting for new police and fire stations, as well as a new senior center. Tom was also on the board of directors of the Greater Springfield Credit Union and later elected to the Hampden County Retirement Board.

Tom was a good friend to the Wilbraham-Hampden Times and helped us make complicated municipal finance issues easy to understand.

Sources: "History of Wilbraham Bicentennial Edition 1763-1963" edited by Charles Merrick; Chauncey Peck who wrote "The History of Wilbraham, 1731, 1763-1913. Wikipedia. "The Timetables of History" by Bernard Grun, a Touchstone Book published by Simon & Schuster. Dave Bourcier, author of the "Wilbraham Historic Tidbits" website.

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

VIEWPOINTS

in my BACKYARD

By Ellenor Downer



Fox sparrow

I had fox sparrows under my feeder for several days now. Most recently I counted five of them usually it is two or three. The fox sparrow is a large sparrow about seven inches long. It has a gray head and back with bold, rufous or brown streaking. It has an irregular shaped central dot on its breast and reddish, brown rump and tail. The reddish coloring resembles the color of a fox, hence its name. It often jumps forward and back, pulling aside ground cover to find food underneath. It may come to feeders when seed is scattered on the ground. I not only put seed in the tray feed-

ers, but I sprinkle some on the ground for the juncos, sparrows and mourning doves.

The female lays four to six light blue green eggs with darker marks in a cup like nest of grasses, lichens and leaves lined with hair, fur and rootlets. When we had horses, I would often find nests with their hair in them. My daughters and I would leave hairs groomed from their manes and tails on the ground for the birds.

The fox sparrow's song is a short series of clear melodious whistles and it is more melodic than most sparrows. Males may have one to three versions their songs, which are distinct to each male.

Interesting sightings

I have received emails of several interesting sightings. A Granby resident wrote, "I recently saw a bald eagle in my neighbors tree right next to my property. It was on Feb. 28. To make sure what I was seeing, I grabbed my binoculars and sure enough it was a bald eagle. He stayed there for around five minutes then he flew away." She said, "It was my first time spotting an eagle in Granby. I did spot one in the 90s at the Quabbin flying around. I usually see hawks in my neighborhood on a regular basis. But this was a nice site to see for sure."

A Barre resident saw a snow bunting on March 15. An Oakham resident saw two sandhill cranes on the morning of March 15. He said, "While driving down Rutland Road in Oakham, I did a double-take and hit the brakes. There, near the road at Eva Grimes' old place, stood two Sandhill Cranes. They almost could have been mistaken for lawn ornaments, but they were real. One stood erect while the other pecked at the lawn grass. Last year I observed three cranes fly over my house. Perhaps they

plan to nest in one of our large beaver-impacted marshes?"

Brimfield resident

A Brimfield resident reported on March 18, he saw 22 ring-necked ducks and an immature bald eagle at a pond in Warren. He also said, "On South Street where last year there were three great blue heron nests and an osprey nest. There were two great blue herons standing in one of the nests used last year and an osprey sitting on the nest used previously. The osprey have been present there for three years, producing at least one chick each year. He also said his wife saw a dozen chipping sparrows in their yard, a first of the year at this location. He report the only spring arrival in our yard had been one male robin a few days ago. No phoebes yet and he still has some juncos and at least one white-throated sparrow.

The Brimfield resident said he did a tour of some local ponds on Wednesday. At the heron rookery at

Conant Brook in Monson he saw one great blue heron and one tree swallow. In Brimfield, there were 54 male and 18 female common mergansers.

Turkey vultures

On Tuesday, I spotted about four turkey vultures perched in a dead tree in Oakham. Several more were circling overhead. I have seen then at this location in past years.

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

in the Garden

by Roberta McQuaid



Primroses serve double duty

This week's column was half done when I received a text from a good friend who I haven't seen in a few months.

She had just read last week's article and was reaching out to congratulate me on my impending delivery. What? If I were having a baby, my name may end up in more than just the local paper- try the Guinness Book of World Records.

Anyway, I accidentally sent an old column in, not the one I revamped in honor of my first born's birthday. I am sorry you all missed out on a few new things I had to say about the Gerber daisy, but I hope this gave you a good laugh.

Another dear friend visited Cape Cod this past week. She left the morning that we had some freezing rain and light snow.

Later in the day I received a picture in a text message that said, "at least it's spring somewhere!" I chuckled as I looked at the pretty Polyantha Primroses (Primula spp.) planted outside of an establishment, almost beckoning tourists to jump start the busy season!

I countered her picture with one of my own, a picture of a primrose in my garden, just greening up but still weeks away from flowering. Why not take a closer look at this double duty plant, just in time for Easter giving.

What exactly do I mean by double duty? Pick one up at the grocery store to enjoy indoors this spring and then plant it in the garden.

Better yet, purchase a primrose as an Easter hostess gift and it will be a spring harbinger for years to come - a memory of you! Even though they are usually sold in small pots, it's hard to miss their brightly colored flowers poking up through basal foliage.

They come in almost every color of the rainbow. Like the infamous pregnancy gift from last week's column, primroses also fall into the happy plant category!

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

If it's been growing indoors for a while, be sure to let it harden off a bit before planting it in the ground; a partly shady spot with moisture retentive soil is best.

Typically, primroses need to be divided every three years or so, evident by die-out that begins in the center of the plant. Simply separate a chunk from the outer portion of the plant and replant it in rejuvenated soil.

I prefer to do this early in the season, but it can also be accomplished right after flowering has ended. In the heat of the summer, and especially in drier soils, the plant can look a little yellow and ragged.

Keeping it well watered helps.

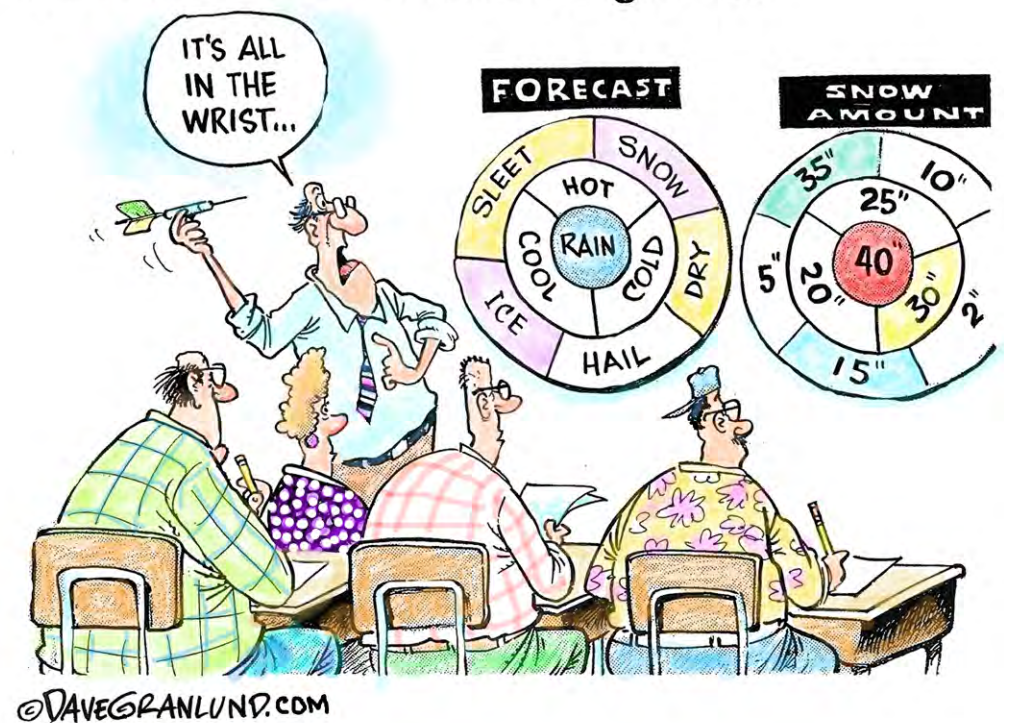
One year, when money was tight, I divided a plant and potted up one of the divisions and gave it to my sister in law as a hostess gift. She still has it growing in her garden, and every once in a while, will send a picture of it happily blooming.

I've tried in earnest to grow Japanese Primrose (Primula japonica) but something in my soil apparently isn't right. I will probably buy another one this year and hope beyond hope to eventually end up with a stand of them like they have in the display gardens at Positively Perennials.

The sea of whorled flowers in light and dark pink is arboretum worthy.

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

Refresher course for meteorologists...



The Wilbraham-Hampden TIMES TEAM

EDITOR
Kristin Rivers
krivers@turley.com

ADVERTISING SALES
Jocelyn Walker
jwalker@turley.com

SPORTS EDITOR
Greg Scibelli
sports@turley.com

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

f
@Wilbraham-Hampden Times

WEB
www.wilbrahamhampdentimes.turley.com

PATRICK H. TURLEY
CEO

KEITH TURLEY
President

DEANNA SLOAT
Graphics Manager

Turley Publications, Inc.
www.turley.com

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



Editorial Policy

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

Correction Policy

The TIMES will gladly correct factual errors that appear in this paper and can be substantiated. Corrections or clarifications will always appear on the editorial pages. To request a correction, send information in an e-mail or mailed communication to the editor at the above address listed above. The Wilbraham-Hampden TIMES is published every Thursday by Turley Publications, Inc. One year out of town subscriptions are available at \$45, out of state \$50 by calling 800-824-6458 Ext. 201. The deadline for submission of news material, letters to the editor and photos is Monday at 12 p.m. The TIMES is not responsible for submitted photos.

Select Board approves Wilb. Hill Climb safety plans

Also, note on upcoming paving projects

By Kristin Rivers
Editor
krivers@turley.com

WILBRAHAM - In a follow-up to last week's meeting, the Select Board approved the traffic safety plans for this year's Wilbraham Hill Climb.

Chairman Theresa Goodrich was absent this week.

Chief Ed Lennon explained two motions would need approval for a temporary closing of streets and a temporary parking ban on May 11.

"These were the same motions which were before the board last year, except that this year the parking ban has been extended a little further north on Main Street to Wright Place, because the event has been expanded further north on Main Street," Lennon said.

Select Board member Michael Squindo read the motions into the record, beginning with the motion for closing the streets.

"Pursuant to Wilbraham town bylaw section 701, the Select Board hereby orders that on Saturday, May 11, 2024, between 7 a.m. and 3 p.m., Monson Road, between Main Street and Ridge Road, as well as the northbound lane of Main Street between 548 Main Street and 550 Main Street shall be closed to traffic due to the Hill Climb event," Squindo said.

The motion was approved 2-0.

The motion for the temporary parking ban then passed 2-0.

Later, Squindo shared during Selectmen's Updates about a constituent coming forward about the ability to reduce speed limits for an area dealing with traffic going at very high speeds.

"There's some regulation, as I understand it, through Mass General Law that could do that through a town meeting vote. So, I sent some preliminary information to Nick and just asking the board to consider it in the future..." Squindo said.

Sue Bunnell asked Town Administrator Nick Breault about the configuration

of the Traffic and Safety Team as Select Board members were members in the past.

"Where does that stand? Are you interested in meeting?" Bunnell said.

Breault explained the committee meets monthly.

"We do try to maintain a monthly schedule, so we do meet every second Thursday, 9:00 a.m. here," Breault said. "The Select Board members, it just seems that it's been difficult for Select Board members to appear on a consistent basis because you have day jobs, so we've forged on."

Breault added they "can certainly take a look" at Squindo's suggestion.

Later, a note on upcoming paving projects in the area of Stony Hill Road and Springfield Street and the parking lot of the new senior center was presented.

Breault said the projects begin on April 17 and will occur during the school vacation week when there will be less traffic.

"With the consent of the board, we'll send out a message, perhaps, to go out on, maybe, Sunday, Monday and then, maybe again Tuesday because that is such a major intersection," Breault said.

The new senior parking lot project, meanwhile, is final paving and striping.

"Initially it was scheduled to be done for this weekend, which would have been nice because the office is closed on Monday. However, the contractor didn't have paving for asphalt available. It wasn't available until that Wednesday," Breault said.

Breault added the senior center will be closed on April 17 during this project, with staff returning on April 18.

"The plan is to get all of this work done in time for the event on the 19th for the donors and for the weekend of their grand opening on Saturday the 20th and Sunday the 21st," Breault said.

"So, we'll get the word out but just wanted to let folks know, April 17 is going to be a slow go in the immediate area."

Lastly, the Select Board will not be meeting next Monday, April 15, due to the Patriot's Day holiday. Their next meeting will be on Monday, April 22.



Submitted photos Megan Harrigan

From the left, Megan Harrigan, Jeff Smith and Tracey Plantier smile for a group photo as they put up signs around Wilbraham for this year's Earth Day Community Clean Up.

2nd Annual Earth Day Clean Up takes place April 20

By Kristin Rivers
Editor
krivers@turley.com

WILBRAHAM - The 2nd Annual Earth Day Community Clean Up is coming up on April 20 at Fountain Park.

The event takes place from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., with volunteers picking up and cleaning up trash throughout Wilbraham. Safety vests, trash bags and gloves will be provided.

Volunteers will, also, be treated to an appreciation lunch from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m.

Outside of the cleanup, attendees can meet with community groups including Odin's Heart Wildlife Rehabilitation, Boy Scouts, Cub Scouts, the Conservation Commission, the Open Space Committee, the Wilbraham Children's Museum and the Friends of the Wilbraham Public Library at their sites and the Girl Scout Troops.

The Girl Scouts will be collecting discarded nip bottles for an awareness campaign.

Megan Harrigan, event chairman of the Keep Wilbraham Beautiful Committee, expressed excitement after having over 300 people participate last year.

Harrigan said she was thankful for the support and collaboration from the Select Board, the police department, the Department of Public Works, volunteers at Fountain Park and the Conservation Commission along with the community.

"This year, we are looking forward to having a similar crowd size, if not larger," Harrigan said. "Everything's set in place for a successful event."

Tracey Plantier, a member of the Open Space & Recreation Committee, said Fountain Park is the perfect place to hold the event.

"It's a nature preserve. It's 145 acres, lot of community events. It's got a big enough space to kind of hold everybody and it's central enough in Wilbraham for everyone to reach really quickly," Plantier said.

Jeff Smith credited Harrigan for organizing the event, explaining how last year's event collected 4,600 pounds of trash.

"It's a staggering number. We filled a huge dumpster. I think the importance here

is to note that, in its first year, I think it was hugely successful, so where we go from there is only up," Smith said. "I'm hoping that we can continue to do more and more."

Smith said the goal, theoretically, is to get down to zero pounds of trash to collect. "It's a great initiative," Smith said.

Plantier said community events like this help connect residents, including those new to town and families.

"It's a really good feeling to give back to your community and you get to meet the great people in your community when you come to these events," Plantier said. "Wilbraham has a lot of really great family events and it's really, really needed for families to feel connected and supported, and this is one of those."

Harrigan agreed, having taught her children the importance of volunteering and being involved in other community events herself.

"I think we and I have gotten a sense of belonging from it and I definitely made friends and I feel good afterwards and I will continue to volunteer because of that," Harrigan said.

Harrigan, Plantier and Smith want the community to know taking part in the event will make an impact, encouraging them to come and, also, to keep Wilbraham beautiful all year round.

"Can't do it without your support," Harrigan said.

"Every little bit helps," Plantier said.

"Doesn't have to be the whole event. Come for an hour, do something for an hour, do something for half an hour. Beep and wave at the people that are out picking up the trash," Smith said.

"Make them feel good, cheer for those folks," Plantier said.

Harrigan added residents can clean up the week before or the week after the event.

"There's other ways to give back if you can't do it that day," Harrigan said.

To learn more, visit sites.google/view/wilbraham-earth-day-cleanup/home, the Keep Wilbraham Beautiful Facebook page or email Harrigan at meganharrigan@gmail.com.

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.

Hampden Public Library hosting Earth Day Eco-Expo April 20

HAMPDEN - The Hampden Public Library will be hosting their annual Earth Day Eco-Expo beginning at Noon on April 20.

The event features useful recycling and gardening tips, educational games and activities and lots of eco-friendly giveaways to help the whole family live more sustainably! This is your opportunity to "talk trash" with industry professionals and local eco-enthusiasts. We'll cover all things sustainability, including swapping single-use for zero-waste, recycling food scraps, propagating plants and more—you won't want to miss it!

Town departments include the Hampden Public Library, Friends of the Hampden Public Library, the Hampden Garden Club, Park & Rec, the Hampden Conservation Commission, the Hampden Senior Center, Hampden Board of Health and the Hampden Fire Department.

The activities include solar oven and solar generator demonstrations, a BagShare sewing workshop and vendors such as Ferrindino Maple, Commonwealth Sustainability, Honey Bear Tea, Lee's Bees, Richard Muse doing wood crafting, Mark Gurney with clay creations, local author Sandra Howell, Mindy Meeker with massage, ArborTech Tree, D & R Farm with baked goods and produce and Forastiere with green burials.

Also, an opportunity to meet the Mass Audubon Society mascot, Peta the turtle!

Free refillable water bottles from Hampden Public Library, sprout seed pencils from the Hampden Garden Club and saplings from ArborTech Tree Services are available while supplies last.

To learn more, visit www.hampden-library.org/events/earth-day-eco-expo/.

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.

LOCAL KETONE PROMOTER

Call For Information
413-813-2391

Leave Message

Check Out Facebook at
Denise Dubowski
Save Up To 25% OFF
Retail Prices

Events & announcements schedule

The Theatre Guild of Hampden presents 'Oklahoma!'

Tickets are on sale now

HAMPDEN – Tickets are now on sale for The Theatre Guild of Hampden's production of the Rodgers and Hammerstein classic musical "Oklahoma!"

The musical, which was the first collaboration from the legendary composers, is set in 1906 and centers on farmgirl Laurey Williams, who is courted by two rival suitors, cowboy Curly McLain and farmhand Jud Fry.

The directors are Christopher Rojas and Mark Giza, Bobby Scott as music director and Dina DelBuono serving as choreographer.

The show takes place at The Red Barn at Fountain Park at 883 Tinkham Rd. in Wilbraham, with the show dates scheduled for April 12, 13 and 14.

The Friday and Saturday evening shows take place at 7 p.m., while the Sunday matinee shows take place at 2 p.m.

Tickets can be purchased online at <https://www.theatreguildofhampden.org/tickets.html>.

To learn more, contact Mark Giza at 413-204-5333 or 413-543-4203.

9th Annual 5K Falcon Trail Race Sign-Ups

WILBRAHAM - Every year the Friends of Recreation hosts the Annual 5K Falcon Trail Race to support improvements at Town of Wilbraham Recreational Facilities. The race is held at McDonald Nature Preserve on Washington Road in Wilbraham. This year the race is scheduled for Sunday, April 14 with a start time of 10 a.m., rain or shine. All ages are welcome to run, but please leave strollers and dogs at home. Prizes will be awarded for all age groups and all pre-registered participants will receive a custom designed moisture-wicking long sleeve shirt. Registration is available online through active.com or the day of the race at the registration table.

Grab a family member, friend, or neighbor and join others at the 9th Annual Falcon Trail Race on Sunday, April 14!

Hampden Senior Center to host Pie Sale

The Hampden Senior Center, 104 Allen St., is having another great Pie Sale. This year, the fundraiser is offering juicy Apple, delicious Fruit of the Forest and mouth-watering Blueberry. Orders for pies at \$19 each will be taken at the se-

nior center starting March 1, paid in full in advance. Pies will be boxed and bagged and available for drive-up pick up at the center on Saturday, April 27 from Noon to 1:30 p.m. Call 413-566-8271 with any questions.

Wilb. Friends of the Library to hold dine out fundraiser at Pizzeria Uno

WILBRAHAM – The Wilbraham Friends of the Library (WFOL) is holding a dine out fundraiser on Thursday, April 11 at Pizzeria Uno at 1722 Boston Rd., Springfield MA.

Work, sports, meetings, everyday life can make for a hectic day. The Wilbraham Friends of the Library want to help you out! Take a break and eat at the Pizzeria Uno on Boston Rd. in Springfield any time 11 a.m. -11 p.m. on April 11 and up to 20% of your check will go to the Wilbraham Public Library. Eat-In, take-out, drinks, and catering will all count towards the total donation to the Wilbraham Public Library.

You must bring either a printed or digital version of the coupon available on the library's website, www.wilbrahamlibrary.org, or the WFOL Facebook page.

The Friends of the Library fund programs for children, teens and adults, as well as the library's popular Museum Pass program, furnishings and other library equipment.

For more information, contact the Friends at friends@wilbrahamlibrary.org.

in Canada and the United Kingdom," said Bell.

Images of original records, including immigration records and town records of births, marriages, and deaths can be saved to a flash drive, printed, or sent to your email from Ancestry Library Edition. It is accessible in-library only, but can be used through both library computers or personal devices connected to the library's Wi-Fi.

This program is free and open to the public. Space is limited due to the number of computers available, and registration is going on now.

For more information, contact the Wilbraham Library at 413-596-6141 or visit the Event Calendar online at www.wilbrahamlibrary.org. Residents can also contact Mary Bell at 413-596-6141 or mbell@wilbrahamlibrary.org.

2nd Annual Earth Day Community Clean-Up seeking volunteers and sponsors

WILBRAHAM - The Keep Wilbraham Beautiful Committee (KWBC) has announced that the 2nd Annual Earth Day Community Clean-Up will take place on Saturday, April 20. Those interested in volunteering can report to Fountain Park between 8 - 9 a.m., where safety vests, gloves, trash pickers, and garbage bags will be provided. KWBC representatives will direct volunteers to areas of town in need of trash removal. A complimentary lunch will be provided to all volunteers at Fountain Park following the clean-up.

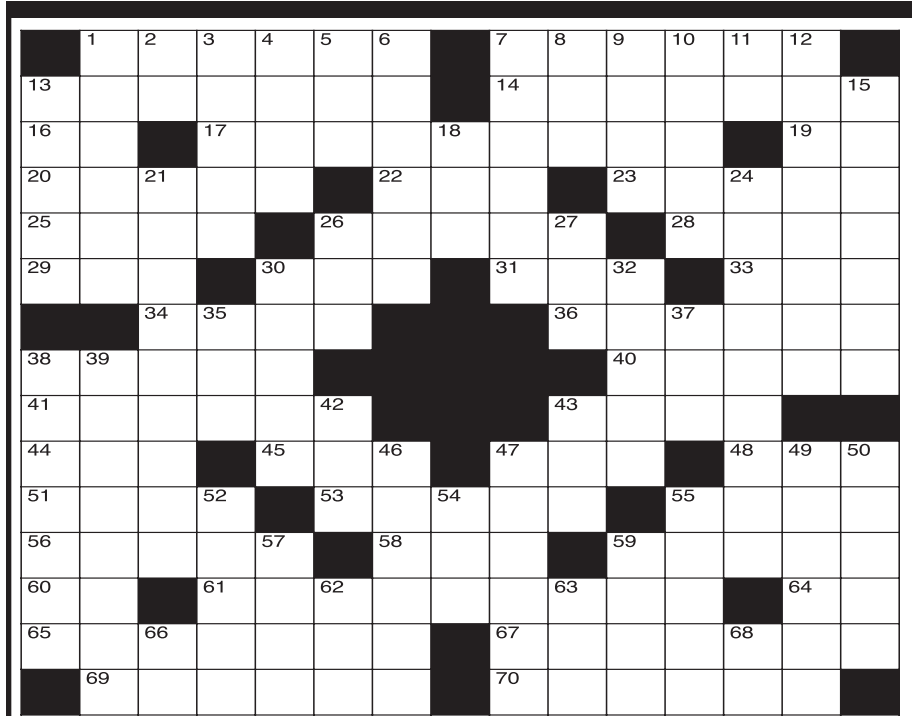
KWBC is appreciative of the generous continued support and collaboration of the DPW, local police, USA Waste, NEPM, and Wilbraham Select Board. Rice Fruit Farm and Friendly's are joining the efforts for 2024, and additional sponsors are sought to offset the costs related to the volunteer appreciation luncheon and the purchase of additional safety vests, signage, and trash pickers for the event. If you are inclined to offer monetary support, checks can be made out to the Town of Wilbraham and earmarked for Earth Day. All sponsors will be recognized both on the KWBC website and Facebook page.

KWBC is also seeking organizations who would like to host a table at Fountain Park during the event. These tables could offer information about taking care of the Earth or family-friendly activities.

For more information on how to get involved in this community event, please visit KWBC's website: <https://sites.google.com/view/wilbraham-earth-day-cleanup/home>. KWBC can also be found on Facebook by searching "Keep Wilbraham Beautiful" or <https://www.facebook.com/groups/keepwilbraham-beautiful/>.

You can also contact Event Chair Megan Harrigan at keepwilbrahambeautiful@gmail.com.

Please see **EVENTS**, page 17



CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Island nation
- 7. Platforms
- 13. Project plan
- 14. French fishing port
- 16. South Dakota
- 17. Oakland's baseball team
- 19. Military policeman
- 20. Ornamental stone
- 22. Garland
- 23. Process that produces ammonia
- 25. Mousses
- 26. Music notation "dal"
- 28. Fail to win
- 29. Peyton's little brother
- 30. Not near
- 31. Some cars still need it
- 33. Lizard genus
- 34. An idiot (Brit.)
- 36. Postponed
- 38. African country
- 40. Gazes unpleasantly

- 41. In a way, traveled
- 43. Ukraine's capital
- 44. Appropriate
- 45. Dash
- 47. Twitch
- 48. Swiss river
- 51. Data file with computer animations
- 53. City in S. Korea
- 55. Particular region
- 56. They have eyes and noses
- 58. Tear
- 59. Large Madagascar lemur
- 60. Not out
- 61. Ornamental saddle covering
- 64. A driver's license is one
- 65. Latin term for charity
- 67. Rechristens
- 69. Objects from an earlier time
- 70. Hindu male religious teachers

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Used as a weapon
- 2. Yukon Territory
- 3. Makes a map of
- 4. An established ceremony prescribed by a religion
- 5. Unnilhexium
- 6. Merchant
- 7. Playing the field
- 8. Folk singer DiFranco
- 9. Something to scratch
- 10. Mexican agave
- 11. Equal to one quintillion bytes
- 12. Session
- 13. North American people
- 15. Ranches
- 18. Electroencephalograph
- 21. A type of compound
- 24. Avenue
- 26. High schoolers' test
- 27. A type of meal
- 30. Gradually disappeared
- 32. Ancient Frankish law code
- 35. Popular pickup truck
- 37. Buzzing insect
- 38. Deal illegally
- 39. Lying in the same plane
- 42. Obstruct
- 43. Related
- 46. Challenge aggressively
- 47. Nocturnal hoofed animals
- 49. Bird's nests
- 50. Forays
- 52. ___ B. de Mille, filmmaker
- 54. Title of respect
- 55. One-time name of Vietnam
- 57. Self-immolation by fire ritual
- 59. Private school in New York
- 62. Political action committee
- 63. A way to fashion
- 66. Email reply
- 68. "The Great Lake State"

Searching your family history with Ancestry Library Edition

WILBRAHAM – Assistant Library Director Mary Bell will give a hands-on demonstration of Ancestry Library Edition at the Wilbraham Public Library on Thursday, April 18, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.

She will give a brief demonstration of how to use the online resource in the Brooks Room, followed by time in which participants use library computers or their own laptops to access the database and search for themselves. All participants will be given a starter kit with forms and tips for researching genealogy.

"Ancestry Library Edition includes records of the U.S. Census from 1790 to 1950, military records such as World War I and II draft cards, and other records worldwide. International records available include particularly good coverage

ROBERTS ROOFS

SPECIALIZING IN
Slate • Copper • Architectural Shingles • Gutters
Historical Restoration • Flat Roofing
Snow Removal
Snow/Ice Damage Repair

Tel. 413-283-4395
Cell 413-237-9434

www.RobertsRoofsInc.com



Trusted Name Since 1982

LUDLOW MEMORIAL COMPANY INC.

Celebrating over 60 Years in Business ~ The Trusz Family

- ❖ Benches ❖ Statues ❖ Monuments ❖ Custom Design Work
 - ❖ Plot Maintenance ❖ Bronze Plaques ❖ Cleaning ❖ Markers ❖ Vases
 - ❖ On-Site Lettering ❖ Restorations ❖ Cemetery Signage ❖ Granite Signs
- 201 East St., Ludlow, MA 01056 ❖ www.ludlowmemorialcompany.com
413-589-7564 Office ❖ 413-589-7588 Fax ❖ 413-531-5360



Carolyn Averill as Rosa Bud and Mona Tiglio as Her Royal Highness the Princess Puffer practice their parts in "The Mystery of Edwin Drood" during the Wilbraham United Players' April 2 rehearsal of the upcoming spring production.



From the left, Christopher Härtel, Steven Close and Alexandria Escribano in position for their next song during the Wilbraham United Players' April 2 rehearsal of "The Mystery of Edwin Drood."



Members of The Wilbraham United Players strike a pose after performing one of the Act II songs for "The Mystery of Edwin Drood" during their April 2 rehearsal at Wilbraham United Church.

THEATRE from page 1

ley and it's amazing just how much talent there is. We just love getting people up on stage and sharing that, I think that's important."

Alexandria Escribano, who plays Helena Landless and Janet Conover, and Carina Gonyer, who plays Edwin Drood, Dick Datchery and Alice Nutting, are newer members of the Wilbraham United Players and have enjoyed how welcoming and supportive the group is.

"There's never a dull day. Everyone brings so much energy and we're constantly laughing," Escribano said. "But everyone's here and having a good time. It doesn't feel like work to be here. Everyone's here because they want to be."

"There's always so many shenanigans," Gonyer said. "It doesn't feel like work. It just feels like we're all just doing what we love, which is how it should be."

Gonyer stressed the importance of supporting the arts locally, including theater and music programs.

"It's really important because it en-

gages creativity and, sometimes, improvising. Sometimes thinking of stuff on the fly and teamwork as well," Gonyer said. "Sometimes kids will come and see things like this and whether it's because their relative's in it or just because their parents are going or something and that can start something that can really change their life. It can give them something that they want to do with their life, even if it just leads them into music or just acting or writing. It can take their life in a whole new direction."

Looking ahead to the shows, Escribano said she looks forward to everything.

"I'm excited to get in costume," Escribano said.

Goyer also looks forward to the costumes and seeing people attend.

"I can't wait for it to all come together and see the little bits and pieces finally get sewn up," Goyer said.

Martin wants the community to know they can support the community in any way they can, including checking out the Wilbraham United Players.

"I would just say get out in your local

community, get involved in something. Whether that's sports for you, whether that's theater," Martin said. "There's so much to the fabric of these little communities we live in, you should experience it."

Escribano and Goyer encourage residents to check out the show when it opens and audition for future shows.

"Just do it. Just go for it. If you want to audition, just go for it. They are so kind at the auditions," Goyer said.


"I can promise to the audience that any guess that they have about what's coming next, they have no idea," Escribano said. "You have no idea what's coming for you, in a good way!"

Martin's message to the cast was this. "Break a leg!" Martin said.

To get your tickets, visit wilbrahamunitedplayers.org/buy-tickets.




Turley photos by Kristin Rivers
Sydney Mills, a member of the Wilbraham United Players, with an umbrella prop during the Wilbraham United Players' April 2 rehearsal of "The Mystery of Edwin Drood."



DDS
Department of
Developmental Services




**The Department of
Developmental Services
is looking for Direct Care Workers
and Licensed Practical Nurses
to join their team in
Central & Western Massachusetts.**



**BE PART
OF SOMETHING
MORE!**

On the spot interviews
and offers for
qualified candidates.
Please bring your
Driver's License and
second form of ID.

**BENEFITS
INCLUDE**


-  Excellent retirement plans
-  Generous paid time off
-  Health, dental and vision plans

**Direct Care & LPN
HIRING EVENT**

**Tuesday 4/9/24
10:30am-2pm**

**Palmer Public Library
1455 N Main Street
Palmer, MA 01069**

**RSVP
RECOMMENDED:**
<https://tinyurl.com/u3tacaay>



**STARTING
PAY RATES:**

- Direct Care Worker I: \$21.44/hr
- Direct Care Worker II: \$22.95/hr
- Direct Care Worker III: \$24.94/hr
- Direct Care Worker IV: \$27.72/hr
- LICENSED PRACTICAL NURSE: \$34.16/HR**

Rates do not include potential differentials of \$1.25-\$4.00/hr.

*Must be at least 18 years old and possess a valid driver's license to qualify.

DDS is an Equal Opportunity Employer committed to fostering a diverse, inclusive, and accessible work environment. We do not discriminate on the basis of race, religion, color, sex, gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, age, disability, national origin, veteran status, or any other basis covered by protected law. To ensure an inclusive and accessible experience for all participants, we are fully committed to providing reasonable accommodations for individuals with disabilities. Further information and details will be communicated to applicants through our registration correspondence.

Rep. Saunders speaks about need for Quabbin bill

By Nick Boonstra
Staff Writer
nboonstra@turley.com



Turley photos by Nick Boonstra
State Rep. Aaron Saunders spoke at a meeting of the Friends of Quabbin held at the Belchertown United Church of Christ Fellowship Hall this past Sunday.



A view of the Quabbin Reservoir from atop Winsor Dam.

BELCHERTOWN — State Rep. Aaron Saunders (D-Belchertown) spoke at a meeting of the Friends of Quabbin on April 7, to promote a bill that aims to improve regional equity for the communities that host the Quabbin Reservoir.

House Bill 897, also known as An Act Relative to the Quabbin Watershed and Regional Equity, would create a trust fund to benefit Quabbin Reservoir Watershed Communities, which would be funded by a fee based on the amount of water used by supplied municipalities.

The fee proposed by the bill would be set at five cents per 1,000 gallons drawn and would be expected to raise \$3.5 million for the fund, according to a summary document for the bill provided by Saunders. The bill also proposes to adjust how communities would be paid from the Massachusetts Water Re-

sources Authority, basing payments on total state land acreage as opposed to acreage above the high-water mark as is currently mandated.

Additionally, the bill would

ensure that three members on the MWRA Board of Directors were residents of Connecticut River Basin communities. Currently, Monson Town Administrator Jennifer Wolowicz is the only one of the board's 11 members representing a community outside of the I-495 corridor.

Saunders explained that this bill, the first of its kind to be introduced in the House, was one that he proposed with a focus on the future of the region, rather than its past. However, he made clear that it was the history of the region and its steward-

ship of the reservoir that made a bill like this necessary.

"When the Quabbin was built, when the four towns were taken from us, there were a number of communities that were also impacted forever," Saunders said.

Saunders went on to detail how many of the towns that contain the reservoir are left to rely primarily on property taxes over commercial development for raising municipal revenues, leading to both buildings and services that were beginning to degrade as a result of those lower figures. He said that this state of affairs was directly a result of the fact that these communities host the reservoir for other parts of the state.

"The lands that we protect for the Quabbin have foreclosed the

ability for these communities to do anything else that may generate the type of revenue that funds public safety, that funds basic services that we expect from our communities," Saunders said.

Providing one example of suffering public facilities, Saunders said, "There is one usable room in the New Salem Town Hall; it's in the basement. The rest of the building is not fit for human consumption."

He said that this bill was not concerned with seeking repayment for these impacts historically, but rather was merely an attempt to recognize the worth of the region's protection of the reservoir, as well as to assure that the region will continue to be able to protect it going forward.

"The water provides such innumerable value to the people and the businesses and the communities of eastern Mass that there ought to be some consideration given to the communities that steward this resource," Saunders said.

He added that this consideration would come at a minimal cost to MWRA ratepayers, providing an estimated figure of an additional six cents per month for the average Boston water and sewer customer.

Saunders also said this proposed bill was coming at a time when the burden placed on the Quabbin Reservoir may soon be increasing.

"There are a great number Please see **QUABBIN**, page 17



Professional - Reliable - Fully Insured

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

All Major Credit Cards Accepted
100% Financing Available

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



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

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

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

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

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

Dr. Christopher J. Root DMD MAGD and team welcome

Dr. Mary Chalino DMD


Dr. Mary Chalino DMD has joined our clinical team as an Associate Dentist. Dr. Chalino completed a rigorous one-year advanced General Practice Residency (GPR) at Yale New Haven Hospital, focusing on medically complex cases and performing full mouth rehabilitation procedures in the operating room. She completed rotations in General Anesthesia and Internal Medicine as well.

Her dental training was completed at Tufts University School of Dental Medicine, where she served as Vice President of her class. She received her B.A from Wesleyan University in Middletown, CT, double majoring in Biology and Neuroscience & Behavior.

Dr. Chalino is well-versed in all aspects of dentistry, including Restorative, Endodontics, and Oral Surgery. She is a member of the American Academy of Cosmetic Dentistry (AACD), American Academy of General Dentistry (AGD), and American Dental Association (ADA). She is an active member with the Massachusetts Dental Society, and currently serves on the Health and Wellness Committee.



For an appointment with Dr. Chalino please call 413-279-2016



Wilbraham Dental Associates, LLC

70 Post Office Park
Suite 7006
Wilbraham, MA 01095
www.wilbrahamdentalsociates.com
413-279-2016
Hours:
Mon., Tues., Wed. 8:00-5:00
Thurs. 12:00-8:00



Sat. & Sun.
April 27-28
10am - 4pm

*"End of Season," an Egg Tempera by Joan Nelson
West Springfield, Massachusetts*

Southwick Cultural Council
23rd Annual
Fine Art Exhibition
Show & Sale

Featuring more than 40 artists from Western MA and Northern CT. Oils, acrylics, watercolors, wood carvings, sculpture, photography, mixed media, and more. Live art demonstrations. Remembrances from the Southwick Historical Society. Musical performances each day.

Southwick Town Hall
454 College Highway, RTS 10 and 202
www.southwickma.org/cultural-council

Our advertisers make this publication possible.

Let them know you saw their ad in the

Wilbraham-Hampden Times

INSURED AND CERTIFIED

Tree Removal



Structural Pruning



Crane Service



Storm Damage



Stump Grinding



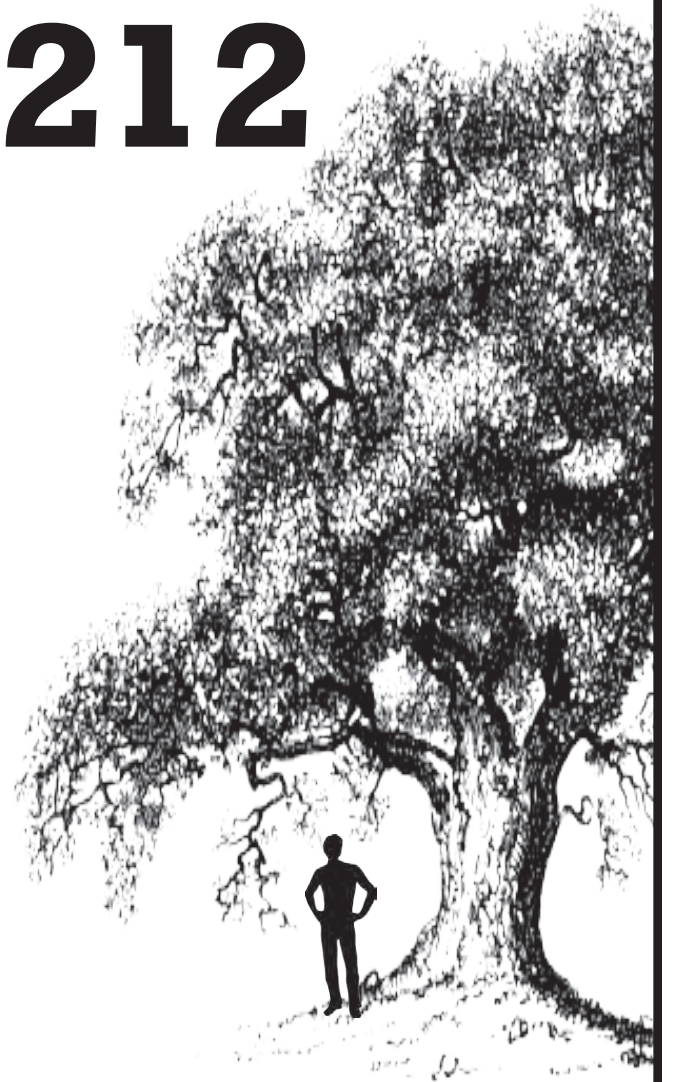
Lot Clearing



Give us a call for your free estimate and tree evaluation

413-478-4212

DL&G TREE



A COMMUNITY GALLERY



On April 4, the Hampden Fire Department responded to a structure fire on Chestnut Hill Road and received assistance from the Wilbraham Fire Department and the Somers Fire Department. The fire department stressed the importance of smoke detectors due to working smoke detectors alerting the occupants, leading to everyone getting out safely. The cause of the fire is still investigation but not considered suspicious.

Photo courtesy of Hampden Fire Department



The Fashion Show Committee is hard at work preparing for the Wilbraham Women's Club's upcoming Fashion Show on April 25. Pictured left to right are committee members: Pat Serra, artistic creator of posters, fliers, and programs, Norma Bandarra, reservations, Sue Agnew, publicity, Sue Rigney and Maureen Mikuszewski, cochairs, and missing for picture, Michele Axtmann, models coordinator. Photo submitted by Sue Agnew



The Hampden Police Department showed off their special patches to spread awareness for autism during National Autism Awareness Day on April 2. The month of April is also recognized as Autism Awareness Month. Pictured here are Officer Jacques, Clerk Kenison and Chief Trombly.

Photo courtesy of Hampden Police Department



Minnechaug's Mackenzie Blair fires a pitch guiding the Falcons to their first win, 9-3 over visiting Pittsfield!

Photo and caption submitted by Peter Camrye

Life in &

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

WILBRAHAM-HAMPDEN



'Hail to the Chief'

Wilbraham-Hampden R...
Wilbraham Fire Chief M...
27. Andrews, chief since...
providing full paramedi...
people each. (Charles F. B...

Hampden v...



THIS PAGE IS BROUGHT TO YOU

WILLIAM RAVEIS
REAL ESTATE
264 N Main St. Unit 12, East Longmeadow, MA
413-687-4339
Heidi.Pafumi@raveis.com

HOME SALES AT
BLOOMINGDALE
Heidi Pafumi

WILBRAHAM HAMPDEN



... of' ...
Rotary Club president Don Flannery (left) presents a gift to guest speaker Mike Andrews at the Country Club of Wilbraham meeting on March 15, 2019, told the club the Fire Department has 27 busy staff members who provide fire service and fire prevention 24/7 weekly made up of four shifts of six members each. (Photo and caption by Dan Blanchard)

Community watches "The Great Solar Eclipse"



Photos submitted by Dan Blanchard



The Hampden Parks & Recreation Department hosted a watch party at Memorial Park on April 8 to watch the solar eclipse. The department also handed out over 1,000 viewing glasses to residents ahead of the eclipse.



... AS A COMMUNITY SERVICE BY:

**RE
NG!
Realtor®**

**Heidi
Pafumi**
Realtor®

SLOPE to SHORE
A DIVISION OF TEAM413
MASSACHUSETTS | CONNECTICUT | VERMONT

SPORTS

A TURLEY PUBLICATION | www.turley.com

SEND US YOUR SPORTS SUBMISSIONS

www.sports.turley.com



Kali Gagnon sprints up the field and is pursued by an opponent.



Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com
Jenna Scatolini uses her body to shield the ball.



Sophia Kozub makes a pass.



Nora Kennedy sprints toward the goal.

Gagnon scores eight in Chaug win

WILBRAHAM – Last Tuesday afternoon, Minnechaug Regional girls lacrosse got their first win of the season with a 19-8 win over Mt. Greylock. The Falcons improved to 1-2 on the season. Kali Gagnon scored eight goals and had an assist. Mac Donahue had three goals and Ella Sarno and Jenna Scatolini had two goals each. The Falcons hope to reach .500 this week and next face Agawam on April 11 at 4 p.m.



Avra Mayuski scoops up a ground ball near the sideline.

Falcons get first win



Alexa Sherman fires a throw to first.



Abby Peyman looks to field a grounder to first.



Veronica Quimet gets flow to field a ball.



Turley photos by Sofia DiGrande
Mackenzie Blair pitches for the Falcons.

Amy Dunklee watches the ball into her glove.

WILBRAHAM – The Minnechaug Regional High School softball team fell to Westfield in their season opener. But the Falcons rebounded to defeat Pittsfield on Saturday 9-3. The Falcons got a complete

game from Mackenzie Blair, with struck out four in a complete game. Aezlin Rost and Amy Dunklee had three hits each. Alexa Sherman drove in two runs for Minnechaug.



Turley photos by Sofia DiGrande
Hunter Ladouceur gets vertical for a set.



Tristen Hot sends a set back over the net.



Mike Bigda goes for a serve.

Minnechaug volleyball out to 2-1 start

WILBRAHAM – The Minnechaug Regional High School boys volleyball had a busy first week of the season. The Falcons competed in three matches, winning two and losing one. Minnechaug defeated Frontier Regional last Monday and Chicopee Comprehensive on Wednesday. But the Falcons suffered a defeat against Ludlow last Friday evening. Minnechaug will face Central on April 11 at 6:15 p.m.



Jonah Rost winds up for hit.



Andrew Spakowski drives to keep the ball in play.

T-Birds suffer loss against Laval

LAVAL, QC – The Springfield Thunderbirds (29-33-3-2) witnessed history from their leading scorer, but an offensive surge from the Laval Rocket (32-28-6-2) was too much, as the home team emerged with a 7-4 win on Saturday afternoon inside Place Bell.

The matinee affair doubled as a day at the fights in the first 2:45 of the game, as two separate scraps elevated the temperature on the two benches and throughout the Place Bell crowd. First, Sam Bitten came to the aid of his brother Will after the elder Bitten took a sturdy check from Tobie Bisson. Six seconds after Sam and Bisson scrapped, Brayden Guy made an impression in his second Thunderbirds game as he scored a winning decision in a tussle with Laval penalty minute leader Riley McKay.

Things did not get off on the right foot for the T-Birds, as a net-mouth scramble just 4:04 into the contest saw Mitchell Stephens open the scoring, jamming a forehand through Vadim Zherenko and giving Laval the 1-0 edge. That goal came moments after Zherenko made a marvelous sliding blocker save on a Stephens one-timer in the opening minute.

The Rocket and their raucous crowd were hoping to run Springfield out of the rink just 3:17 later when 2023 fifth-overall pick David Reinbacher stepped up in the offensive zone to the right circle and uncorked a post-ringer under the bar to make it a 2-0 game on

the rookie's second AHL goal.

Despite the early stumbles, the T-Birds stayed with the program. At 11:06, with an abbreviated power play, Mikhail Abramov connected from the low slot off a centering feed from Hugh McGing, cutting the Laval lead in half. Ryan Suzuki nearly equalized the game just seconds later when he slipped behind the defense, but Rocket netminder Jakub Dobes stood up to Suzuki with a sturdy blocker save.

Despite the Suzuki chance at Dobes' end of the rink, Zherenko continued to have a far busier period than the Laval goalie. To his credit, the T-Birds' second-year backstop stabilized and helped Springfield kill off a pair of abbreviated Rocket man-advantages to keep the 2-1 score intact after 20 minutes.

The T-Birds began the second period on another power play, and after a brief 5-on-3 ended, Adam Gaudette got the game evened up with a wrister from the right side just 1:03 into the middle period. The goal, his 39th of the season, brought him back into a tie with Samuel Fagemo of Ontario for the AHL goal-scoring lead.

Springfield, however, could not vault to the lead, and before long, the Rocket had scored two more to take a 4-2 advantage on goals 1:06 apart from Arnaud Durandeu and Philippe Maillet.

Down but unfettered, the T-Birds again showed resolve. Gaudette drew a penalty shot after being held on his way in

on goal on a breakaway. With a chance to become the first man in the AHL to reach 40 goals this season, Gaudette made no mistake, deking to the backhand and roofing a shot over Dobes to make it 4-3 at 11:40. The sharpshooter's 40th goal also marked the first time since 1990-91 that a Springfield AHL player recorded 40 goals in a single season.

Gaudette's marker also lit a fire under his team. Just 45 seconds later, Abramov whistled a cross-seam pass to a crashing Joey Duszak, who beat Dobes to tie the game, 4-4, at 12:25.

The 4-4 tie carried into the third, but an unfortunate break wound up putting Laval back in front for good. After Leo Loof fearless blocked a shot up near his face, the loose puck landed flat at the feet of Durandeu, who snapped it into an open net before Zherenko could locate it, and the Rocket lead was restored, 5-4, at 6:37 of the third.

This time, a third comeback was not in the cards for Springfield, as Stephens added his second and third goals of the night with a power-play redirect at 10:25 and an empty-netter with 1:11 remaining to finish the scoring. Stephens finished the night with three goals and two assists.

The T-Birds are next in action on Friday, April 12, when they begin a three-game weekend in Hartford against the Wolf Pack. Puck drop is set for 7 p.m. at the XL Center.

Eclipse leads to schedule reshuffling

By Gregory A. Scibelli
gscibelli@turley.com

Several games and contests being held outdoors on Monday, April 8 had their start times delayed or have had the games moved off the date completely due to the upcoming solar eclipse set for the late afternoon hours that day.

Agawam High School Athletic Director Karen Gomez said she moved a softball game to later in the afternoon after she and other athletic directors received guidance from the Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association urging them to move events away from the time the eclipse is scheduled for.

According to the email from the MIAA: "On Monday, April 8, Massachusetts will be experiencing a solar eclipse from 2 to 4:30 p.m. You may already be aware of the danger of looking at the sun during the eclipse. Outdoor activity, practices, and games should be approached with extreme caution as unavoidable exposure to the harmful intensity could happen accidentally with extreme harm to athletes."

The email did not specifically bar events from happening during that time period, but most of the rescheduled games outdoors were moved to the 5 p.m. hour to avoid the eclipse, which is supposed to result in more than 80% coverage of the sun in Massachusetts.

The Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education also issued guidance to all schools, directing education officials not to allow students to look directly into the eclipse while it is happening.

"A solar eclipse occurs when the moon passes directly between the Earth and the sun," the DESE guidance states. "The moon is much smaller than the sun, but because it is so close to the Earth, it can appear to partially or completely block the image of the sun."

South Hadley High School Athletic Director Eric Castonguay confirmed he had to move some events scheduled Monday, including a track meet due to the eclipse's timeline. "I didn't really have an issue with it," Castonguay said. "I don't really know a lot about it, but I certainly would not want to expose the kids to anything that could be harmful to them."

The forecasted weather for Monday, April 8 was actually supposed to be ideal for the eclipse.

Calder's five goals score huge win for Railers

WORCESTER – It is hard to separate the various histories that were made in the Railers' 9-5 victory over Maine at the DCU Center Sunday afternoon but let's give it a try.

The triumph came after Worcester had fallen behind, 4-1, early in the second period. No Railers team in a history that dates back to 2017-18 had ever even earned a point, let alone won a game, after trailing by three goals.

Five Worcester goals were scored by Ashton Calder. That set a Railers record, established an individual league high for the season and was the first five-goal performance by a Worcester player of any uniform since the IceCats' John Carter scored five versus Cape Breton here on Jan. 4, 1995.

Do the math. It last happened 29 years ago.

Calder also had two assists for a seven-point day. That set a team record and tied the Worcester pro mark set by Jim Campbell of the IceCats on Dec. 28, 1999 in a 9-4 victory over Saint John. He had three goals and four assists.

Finally, the nine goals were the most ever in Railers history. They had scored eight four times before including Saturday night.

After taking two of three from the Mariners this weekend, Worcester is in position to win itself into the playoffs. The Railers play three games at Trois-Rivieres next weekend. Two victories and they are in. Worcester still has a chance to finish third, as well.

Maine has four games left, all versus first-place Adirondack.

Calder was plus-5, tying a Railers record. He has a four-game points streak during which he is 6-5-11. He has six goals in the last two games after enduring a stretch where he had six goals in 33 games.

"Basically," Calder said, "I just play the game the right way whether that means I score or make plays. Lately my linemate (Jake Pivonka) has been hot shooting the puck so I try to find him a lot, and when I have a pass I'm a passer, when I have a shot I'm a shooter.

"I don't try to think about it too much. I just play my game and go from there."

As has happened throughout the season the Railers started slowly. That translated into a big early deficit and with the talented Brad Arvanitis in goal foe Maine, that deficit looked like Mt. Katahdin.

"I wasn't thinking good thoughts," coach Jordan Smotherman said of that bad beginning, "but we have a resilient group and they did not let down."

The Railers argued that the Mariners' fourth goal by Sebastian Vidmar was directed in off his skate. That was at 3:24. They lost the debate but Calder scored his second of the game at 5:10 and the mood changed.

"As soon as we scored the second goal everything on the bench shifted," Smotherman said. "It got everybody's attention. The shoulders all came back from a slouch."

Calder made it 4-3 at 6:50 on what might have been the pass of the year from Joey Cipollone. Reece Newkirk tied it at 10:42 and Christian Krygier put Worcester ahead for good at 11:11. It was Krygier's second goal of the season, first since opening night.

Calder got his fourth at 18:14 with the Railers on a power play.

Tyler Drevitch got Maine back on the board at 1:43 of the third period making it a one-goal with lots of time left. Calder got his fifth at 4:48, though, to restore some scoreboard space.

Brendan Robbins hit an empty net at 18:17 and Ryan Verrier got his fourth of the season at 18:37 to set the franchise record.

Henrik Tikkanen got the win with 22 saves on 27 shots. Arvanitis was replaced by Shane Starrett for the third period and he made two saves.

Registration now open to take part in Bay State Games

WOBURN – Registration for the 42nd annual Bay State Summer Games is now open. The 2024 Summer Games will include thirty sports with competitions from May 11 – July 27 at venues throughout eastern and central Massachusetts including Game On in Fitchburg, Boston Sports Institute in Wellesley, Union Point Sports Complex in Weymouth, and North Star Ice Sports in Westborough. Bay State Games participants range in age from 5 to over age 75 and represent more than 300 Massachusetts communities as well as surrounding New England States in some sports. From grassroots participants to accomplished amateur athletes, the Bay State Games provide opportunities for the athlete in all of us.

Seven high school showcase sports will take place for a variety of sports, including baseball, basketball, field hockey, ice hockey, soccer, softball, and volleyball. Athletes currently in grade 8-11 who live or go to school in Massachusetts are eligible to attend regional tryouts during the month of June. These tryouts will determine teams representing the various regions of the Commonwealth that will compete against each other in July. Check each sport page for specific eligibility requirements.

The Summer Games include a wide variety of individual sports including swimming, track & field, figure skating, pickleball, wrestling, weightlifting, badminton, and more. These sports are open to a wide range of ages and skill levels from youth participants to masters-aged athletes. Adaptive sport divisions in archery, swimming, and track & field are offered, as well. Bay State Games also organizes tournaments for pre-existing teams in rugby, and 6v6 field hockey.

Returning in 2024, Table Tennis will take place on June 1 at PingPod in Boston after a 5-year hiatus from the Summer Games sport lineup. New venues include Babson College, which will host the Girls Basketball Showcase, and NorthStar Ice Sports, which will host Figure Skating and the Girls Ice Hockey Showcase. Game On in Fitchburg will serve as a hub venue for eight sports. Bay State Games expects 1,500 athletes and their families to attend competitions at Game On during the second week of July.

For questions, email info@baystategames.org or call 781-932-6555.

Registration now open for Quabbin Valley baseball

The Quabbin Valley Over-28 Baseball League is looking to infuse new talent into its league for the 2024 season.

Registration for the 2024 season is now open and any interested players can go to www.quabbinvalleybaseball.org to get registered, or to seek more information or make inquiries about the league. The league website will also be updated over the next month with information about the upcoming season.

There are many open roster spots available in the league for the 2024 season, which is tentatively scheduled to begin on Sunday, April 21. The league plays most Sunday from late April through late August with playoffs following that. The league plays a 15-game schedule and typically fields six teams each year. Games are usually played at 10 a.m. with fields in Easthampton and South Hadley normally used.

The Quabbin Valley league is an all-abilities league and all are welcome to join. Eligibility is players who are age 28 and over. You must be 30 to be eligible to pitch in the league. Your age for eligibility is whatever age you will turn in 2024. The league is also able to entertaining taking in an entire group as a team to add to the league. Please email the league board for to inquire about entering a team.

The league is currently in the process of preparing for the 2024 season and held a meeting on March 24 to discussion plans for the upcoming season. The next meeting will be held after the league's open practice for all players, including players interested in joining the league. The open practice will be at Beachgrounds Park in South Hadley at 10 a.m. on April 14.

This Week in Rec Pickleball courts update

WILBRAHAM - The weather is starting to warm up, spring is here, and time to head back outdoors for our recreational endeavors. One of the more popular outdoor activities that has taken the world by storm is Pickleball.

Wilbraham has lagged behind in providing its residents outdoor courts to play Pickleball, but slowly but surely, we will have courts to call our own.

Currently we have posted the invitation to bid for the project on all appropriate sites, which means we are one-step closer to getting a shovel in the ground. The project calls for six pickleball courts, with lights and site furnishings constructed in the back corner of Memorial School. Bids are due back by 2 p.m. on

Wednesday, May 1, 2024.

Once bids are opened then we will move forward with signing a contract with the appropriate vendor, and hopefully shortly thereafter start the construction part of the process.

It is an exciting project, and we are thankful for all the support the community has provided to make bring the courts to

fruition.

Not only is the sport of Pickleball a great game to play, it is a great way to socialize and meet many of your fellow Wilbraham neighbors.

NOTE: To register for all of our programs and for more information and specifics, please visit WilbrahamRec.com.

Bryan Litz, Director



EVENTS from page 8

Wilb. Friends of the Library Annual Book Sale returns in May

WILBRAHAM - Wilbraham Friends of the Library (WFOL), are delighted to announce their annual book sale will be held May 1-4! The WFOL Annual Book Sale is a major fundraiser providing funds for programs for children, teens and adults as well as museum passes, furnishings and other library equipment.

We know the sale is a little way off still, but this is the time to collect your old books. How would we have a sale without donated books? Start your spring cleaning now and box or bag up your extra books, CDs and DVDs for us. Children's and adult books, fiction or non-fiction, hobby books etc. in good condition are all welcome. Due to space re-

strictions, we cannot accept encyclopedias, magazines or Readers Digest condensed novels.

As a thank you for their support, donors will receive a coupon good for two free books of their choice from the sale when donations are dropped off. Donations of books and materials will be accepted at the library from Friday, April 26 through Monday, April 29 during regular library hours.

For more information or questions about the sale contact friends@wilbrahamlibrary.org.

For more information on the Wilbraham Friends of the Library visit them on the web at <http://wilbrahamlibrary.org/friends.asp>, on Facebook or via email at friends@wilbrahamlibrary.org.

QUABBIN from page 10

of communities in the eastern part of the state who are dealing with very serious water quality issues," Saunders said. "These are communities that need a reliable source of water, and they are looking to us to provide that."

He later added that he also wanted to make sure there would still be water left should communities in western Massachusetts also show an interest in joining the MWRA system.

Saunders admitted that he had encountered difficulty in trying to help those from different parts of the state understand why a bill like this would be so important.

"Oftentimes, the initial response I get back is, 'Yes, it's sad that four towns were drowned, but it was a necessary step in the Commonwealth's future' – so on and so forth," Saunders said. However, he stated that it was possible to push back against this line of thinking.

"The way this is combatted is

through the voice of the folks who live here in the region," Saunders said. "Not only recounting the past, but talking about what life is like in western Mass now."

For this reason, Saunders emphasized the importance of individuals to speak out about the matter of regional equity as well as related topics such as water quality and public access to natural resources.

"The more that we can have these voices heard outside of just rooms like this, the more effective it is," Saunders said.

**Support the local
businesses that
support your
local newspaper.**

*Let them know you
saw their ad in the*

**Wilbraham
Hampden Times**

Classifieds

12 WEEKLY NEWSPAPERS | SERVING 50 LOCAL COMMUNITIES

A TURLEY PUBLICATION | www.turley.com

COMMUNITY MARKETPLACE

Call us at 413.283.8393

FOR SALE

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

FIREWOOD

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

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

FOR SALE

HAY FOR SALE
Round, Wrapped Hay Bales, Worthington, MA. Call **(413)478-0178**.

WANTED

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

JUNK REMOVAL

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

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

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

SERVICES



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

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

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

SERVICES

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

HOME IMPROVEMENT

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

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

LANDSCAPING

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

****ALL SEASON**** Specializing in shrub trimming, pruning, design, deliveries, loader, backhoe, insured. Professional. Please call Bob **(413)537-5789 (413)538-7954.**

SERVICES

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

MATT GUERTIN LANDSCAPING
Serving Wilbraham & Ludlow

Weekly lawn care
Landscape design and installation
Hedge trimming, pruning, and mulching
Now scheduling spring cleanup
For more services visit
mattguertinlandscaping.com

Call or text **413-266-9975**
Insured - Commercial - Residential

MASONRY

STOP WET BASEMENTS
ABC MASONRY & BASEMENT WATERPROOFING

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

PAINTING

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

PLUMBING

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

PRESSURE WASHING

HOT WATER PRESSURE WASHING We use brushes and state of the art equipment. We remove grime and mold from homes, patios, fences, walkways, all decks, concrete & driveways. Senior Discounts. For free estimates call Bill **(413)519-9800.**

RUBBISH REMOVAL

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

TREE WORK

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

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

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

CLASSIFIED DEADLINES
MONDAY AT NOON

2024 TAX TIME

CHANTEL BLEAU ACCOUNTING SERVICES
For Full Accounting & Tax Service
Registered Tax Return Preparer

228 West St., Ware, MA 01082
413-967-8364

Call For An Appointment

The IRS does not endorse any particular individual tax return preparer. For more information on tax preparers go to irs.gov.

Personal & Small Business Federal & All States

FAST TAX USA
TAX PREPARATION SERVICE
413-348-2279

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

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

FILL OUT AND MAIL THIS MONEY MAKER

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

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

Quabbin Village Hills
Circulation: 50,500

Hilltowns
Circulation: 9,800

Suburban Residential
Circulation: 59,000

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

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

Town: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Number of Weeks: _____ X per week rate = \$ _____

Credit Card: MasterCard VISA Discover Cash Check# _____

Card #: _____ Exp. Date _____ CVV _____

Amount of charge: _____ Date: _____

GREAT VALUE!

ALL 3 ZONES NOW FOR THE PRICE OF ONE!

OUR CLASSIFIEDS REACH 50 COMMUNITIES EVERY WEEK!

Classifieds

12 WEEKLY NEWSPAPERS | SERVING 50 LOCAL COMMUNITIES

A TURLEY PUBLICATION | www.turley.com

COMMUNITY MARKETPLACE

Call us at 413.283.8393

SERVICES

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

TUNE-UPS

LAWNMOWER TUNE UP & REPAIR

A&M TUNE-UPS

Push Lawnmowers, Riding Mowers and Small Engine Repair. *Work done at your home.*

FREE PICKUP OF UNWANTED LAWN EQUIPMENT

Call Mike (413) 348-7967

STUMP GRINDING

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



SAW Stump Grinding
Call for a Free Estimate, Veteran Owned, Fully Insured
WWW.SAWSTUMPGRINDING.COM
413-213-5470

AUTO

CASH FOR JUNK AND REPAIRABLE CARS

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

PETS

BERNEODOODLE PUPPIES

Local, Beautiful, Calm and Adorable Bernedoodle puppies. Raised in our family setting and ready to come bless your home! Parents are DNA tested for health and good genetics. Puppies guaranteed healthy. Their Hypoallergenic coats make them ideal indoor/outdoor pets. Call/text Melvin 413-265-6737 to set up your visit.

HELP WANTED

BROOKFIELD HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT seeks two additional full-time employees to fill **Operator/Laborer** vacancies (Operator II). Full-time 40 hours per week. This is a fully benefited position. For questions, or to submit letter of interest and resume, please email Lindsey at **Highway@brookfieldma.us**
Applications will be accepted until positions have been filled.

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

HELP WANTED

GRANT WRITER/FACILITATOR

The Town of Brookfield is seeking qualified applicants for a part-time (15 hours per week) Grant Writer/Facilitator. See job description at **brookfieldma.us**. Salary is commensurate with experience. Current appropriation is \$30.28 per hour. Please submit a resume and cover letter to **selectmen@brookfieldma.us** Open until filled.
Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer

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

PART-TIME, 15 to 20 hours per week. Must be dependable and have flexible schedule. Podiatry office. Portuguese or Spanish speaking helpful. If interested send CV to **podbill@aol.com** or pickup application at **77 Winsor St., Ludlow, MA; 413-589-7287.**

TOWN TREASURER:

The Town of Brookfield is seeking qualified applicants for the full-time (40-hour week) position of Town Treasurer. Full job description at **brookfieldma.us**. Salary commensurate with experience. Current appropriation is \$80,498.62. Submit cover letter and resume to: **selectmen@brookfieldma.us**. Reviews begin week of April 15th. Open until filled. *The Town of Brookfield is an Equal Opportunity/ Affirmative Action Employer.*

HELP WANTED

FOR RENT



EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY

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

FOR RENT



All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act of 1968, which makes it illegal to advertise any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status (number of children and or pregnancy), national origin, ancestry, age, marital status, or any intention to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination.

This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate that is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain about discrimination call The Department of Housing and Urban Development "HUD" toll-free at 1-800-669-9777. For the N.E. area, call HUD at 617-565-5308. The toll free number for the hearing impaired is 1-800-927-9275.



Community newspapers championed "mobile-friendly"

Keep up with current trends, our newspaper web sites are mobile-friendly too!

Easily connect with your community news, find quick links to our facebook feeds, browse newspaper archives and submit your own news items by visiting www.newspapers.turley.com




Send Us Your Summer Event Information

Turley Publications will print your summer calendar listings FREE OF CHARGE in our SUMMERFEST Supplement which publishes May 22.

Deadline for submissions is April 22.

Community Summer Events

Event Should Be Non-Profit & Open to the Public

FREE Calendar Listings Reaching over 200,000 Readers in the Pioneer Valley

Event Name _____

Date/Time _____

Location _____

Description _____

Cost _____

Contact name & phone number for more information _____

Please specify if you would like your name and number printed in the paper.

CLIP OUT AND MAIL TO:
Turley Publications, Attn: Jamie Joslyn, 24 Water Street, Palmer, MA 01069
or email* them to: jamie@turley.com
***Be sure to indicate "Summer" in the subject line of your email.**

SENIORS

Monthly Highlights for April at the Hampden Senior Center

HAMPDEN – The following programs will occur at the senior center on Allen Street.

“African Drumming” with Jason

Fridays at 2:15 p.m. to 3:15 p.m.
New 12-week session Beginning April 19 through July 12. No class on July 5.

Save money by paying for the session in full.

Cost is \$65 for session or \$6 per class.

New students are welcome.

Please call 566-5588 to reserve your spot. Space is limited.

Crafting with Sheree

Tuesday, April 16, 12:30 p.m. to 3 p.m.

This month, we will make Spring Hat Décor. Hang it on your door, beautify a spot in your home, or gift it to a friend. Cost is \$8 per person; all supplies will be provided. Please call 566-5588 to reserve your spot. Space is limited.

Grab and Go Dinner

Thursday, April 25, pick up from 2 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Enjoy a delicious dinner of American Chop Suey,

Tossed Salad, Bread, and Dessert.

Cost is \$5 per person. Please call 566-5588 starting April 1st to order your dinner.

Learn to play the Ukulele with Sue

Mondays, 1 p.m. to 2 p.m.

Instructor Susan Mc Hand will teach you the necessary skills to master this charming instrument.

Accepting new students. Cost is \$5 per class. Please call 566-5588 to reserve your spot. Space is limited.

Elms College Nursing Students are here Wednesdays, 9:15 a.m. to Noon

They will do blood pressure screening and provide educational health information.

STCC Dental Hygiene Program is hosting a community dental day.

Saturday, April 27, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Springfield Technical Community College, One Armory Square, Springfield, MA

FREE fillings, extractions, etc. For more information and to make an appointment, please call 413-755-4900.

STCC Dental offers the following procedures:

Dental Exams, Regular Cleanings with X-rays, Deep Cleanings, Full Mouth X-Rays, Panoramic X-rays, etc. A full menu of procedures and fees is available at reception at the Hampden Senior Center.

Springfield Technical Community College dental hygiene students are under the direct supervision of licensed dental hygienists. Dentists provide all treatment procedures.

Please call 413-755-4900 to make an appointment.

HELP US STOCK OUR SHELVES with Disinfecting Wipes!

Thank you to those who donated toothbrushes and Toothpaste last month. Every month we will target a different item to fill our shelves to provide non-food items to SNAP recipients.

D & R Winter Farm Share

PICK-UP is on Wednesdays, April 17 at 9:30 a.m.

D & R Farm is offering fresh produce twice a month FREE with SNAP/HIP if you qualify.

If you do not qualify for SNAP/HIP, you may purchase a share for \$40 per month.

New applications are required. If interested, please contact Wendy to get your application in! Please let us know if you need your shares delivered. Shares are limited.

Please call Wendy at 566-5588, or email outreach@hampdenma.gov to sign up.

COMING SOON...

D & R Farm Summer Farm Share

D & R FARM is offering fresh produce twice a month, FREE with SNAP/HIP if you qualify!

If you do not qualify for SNAP/HIP you may purchase a share for \$40 cash per month.

Please let us know if you need your shares delivered. Shares are limited.

Please call Wendy at 566-5588, or email outreach@hampdenma.gov to sign up.

New applications for Summer Farm Share are required and must be completed by and submitted to Wendy by May 15.

Coming in May...

Let's Go Surfin with Joe Green

Tuesdays, May 21 and 28, 9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.

Joe will be here to show you the ins and outs of surfin the web. Make a list of your questions, and Joe will cover it all. This is being offered as a FREE class. Put these dates on your calendar and sign up early,

Bring your own personal device; laptop, tablet, or mobile phone fully charged. Sessions are free.

Please call 566-5588 to reserve your spot. Space is limited.

Bobbi's Senior Trips – Hampden

HAMPDEN – The following senior trips are made available through the Hampden Senior Center. A minimum of 40 travelers are needed for any trip to run. All prices include a driver's tip. Flyers are available at the senior center on Allen Street. Coach seat assigned as your \$20 deposit is received (unless otherwise noted).

Please write a separate check to Bobbi for each trip; note trip name in the check memo.

APRIL 23-25, Tuesday – Thursday - Lancaster, Pa. Amish country tour; play “Daniel” at Sight ‘n’ Sound Theater; \$100 per person, deposit due at sign-up; \$539 per person double; Full Payment due 3/15. Optional Cancellation Insurance. \$49 per person.

MAY 7, Tuesday – Aqua Turf show with Debby Boone, family-style lunch; \$131 per person. Full Payment Due April 19.

JULY 4, Thursday - Tanglewood lawn seats, James Taylor concert, fireworks; \$100 per person. Full Payment Due June 7.

JULY 10, Wednesday – Log Cabin “Margaritaville” Jimmy Buffet Tribute featuring “Changes in Latitude”, Twin Lobster or Prime Rib; Self-Drive \$92 per person. Full Payment Due June 14.

AUGUST – Mt. Washington Cog Railway, stop in Manchester halfway, lunch; Cost, date to be announced.

AUG. 26, Mon – Newport Playhouse” Nonsense: A Musical” buffet lunch, show, cabaret; \$125 per person. Full Payment Due Aug. 7.



5K Walk for Rick's Place takes place April 27

WILBRAHAM – The 5K/1.5M Run/Walk for Rick's Place will be taking place on Saturday, April 27, at 9 a.m. at Minnechaug Regional High School.

Registration opens at 8 a.m. and the Run/Walk will begin at 9 a.m.

Participants who register by April 15 will receive a t-shirt! Shirt and bib pickup will be available on race day at 8 a.m. when registration opens.

All proceeds will support Rick's Place and the race will take place rain or shine.

To learn more and to register, visit <https://runsignup.com/Race/MA/Wilbraham/RunforRicksPlace>.

Wilbraham Women's Club hosting Fashion Show Luncheon

WILBRAHAM - A Fashion Show Luncheon featuring CHICO'S is being sponsored by the Wilbraham Women's Club, Thursday, April 25, at the Saint Cecilia Parish Center, 42 Main St., Wilbraham. The social hour begins at 11:30 a.m. with luncheon served at Noon. The meal choices are chicken francaise and salmon with dill sauce. The \$35 donation for the luncheon also helps to fund the club's scholarships and community service projects. In addition, there will be a raffle for many prizes. For reservations, please contact Norma Bandarra at 413-596-8173 by April 17.

Family & Beginner Bird Walk

US Fish & Wildlife Service and the Allen Bird Club of Springfield, MA invite beginning birders of all ages to participate in a free, introductory bird walk to be held Saturday, April 20, from 10 a.m. - 12 p.m. in Springfield's Forest Park.

Geared toward those curious about birding, this introductory walk will focus on common local birds, identification tips, and appreciating the joy of birding. Participants must be able to walk 1.5 - 2 miles on even footing with one, moderately steep hill. Please bring water, bug repellent, and comfortable footwear. Spare binoculars will be available for those who need them.

The Family Bird Walk will begin at the Picknelly Field parking lot at Forest Park's Route 5/Longmeadow entrance and will take place rain or shine.

CORRESPONDENT OPPORTUNITIES

Turley Publications seeks **Experienced Writers/Journalists** to produce news and/or feature stories of local interest for various towns and cities.

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

Send writing samples with resume to

Deanna Sloat
24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069
or email directly to dsloat@turley.com

Turley
Publications, Inc.
www.turley.com

Representative Puppolo Says “Good Riddance” to MGM Springfield

SPRINGFIELD - State Rep. Angelo J. Puppolo, Jr. (D- Springfield) isn't surprised MGM Springfield is on the market to be sold.

Puppolo has been critical and very disappointed in MGM Springfield's hiring practices, entertainment fulfillment, handling and the disposition of City Stage, and their overall commitment to honoring their host and surrounding community agreements which have left a lot to be desired.

“I for one won't be sad to see them pack up and leave,” stated Puppolo.

Puppolo says the writing has

been on the wall for several years that MGM Springfield has had one foot out the door. Given the public statements made by President William Hornbuckle last year.

“Our original valuation of this market simply was off — full stop.”

He also said that if the market conditions in Springfield were fully understood at the time, the casino might not have been built.

“We thought there would be more business here than ultimately materialized,” Hornbuckle said. “Scale, scope, etcetera. It is what it is.”

Puppolo added, “It's evident to me that since day one MGM has not been fully committed to this project - look no further than the change in the high-rise hotel and shortened gaming space along with a short selection of restaurants and entertainment it's clear that this was a placeholder for them.”

Puppolo feels this may be a silver lining in that a new owner/operator can bring new fresh life to the area. “I'm optimistic that a new owner, maybe even local ownership, can make this the destination and resort style experience that our area deserves and was promised.”

HasBeen Collectible Toys & Comics officially opens in Wilbraham



An exterior shot of the many vintage toys, comic books and collectibles inside HasBeen Collectible Toys & Comics on Boston Road in Wilbraham.



Joseph Butts, dressed as Captain America, and Rik Alvarez, owner of HasBeen Collectible Toys & Comics, take a photo during the grand opening of HasBeen Collectible Toys & Comics on March 30.



State Sen. Jacob Oliveira (D-Ludlow) and Rik Alvarez, owner of HasBeen Collectible Toys & Comics, smile for a photo with the citation from the Massachusetts State Senate celebrating the grand opening of HasBeen Collectible Toys & Comics on March 30.

By Kristin Rivers
Editor
krivers@turley.com

WILBRAHAM - Residents visited 2378 Boston Rd. on March 30 to celebrate the grand opening of HasBeen Collectible Toys & Comics.

Inside, customers encounter a wide array of vintage toys, comic books and collectibles from the 1970s, 1980s and 1990s, and modern items, from Transformers and superheroes to Legos, Masters of the Universe characters, Barbie and many more.

The store is open Tuesdays through Fridays from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sundays from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Rik Alvarez, who also owns the Frame & Picture Shoppe, shared the store's name came from his prior work as a toy designer at Hasbro, who discovered him after finding his books about collecting Transformers.

Alvarez's love for collectible toys and comic books began when he worked at Play With This, a collectible toy store in New Jersey, during high school and college.

"I learned all about toys that came from a generation before me. Stuff like Major Matt Mason and 12-inch GI Joe's, and I developed a love for stuff that, even though I don't collect it, I can appreciate it. I know about its history," Alvarez said.

Alvarez was touched by the community support, with customers arriving before the doors officially opened and receiving a citation from the Massachusetts State Senate from State Sen. Jacob Oliveira (D-Ludlow) to celebrate the grand opening.

"Never underestimate the power of the collector. We want to get in, we want to be first, we want to see a store that's packed, which is why I wanted to make sure my store was packed over with as much stuff as possible because I want those first impressions to be like, 'Wow I have to just spend an hour just walking around to see everything before I even buy anything,'" Alvarez said. "That, to me, is a quality shop. That's what I look for when I go to a collector's store or a comic book shop and that's the experience I want people to have when they come to my place."

Author and podcaster Matthew "Matman" Herring was a special guest at the grand opening, with his works



A close-up shot of Rodan the Pterodactyl and Godzilla figurines inside HasBeen Collectible Toys & Comics on Boston Road in Wilbraham.

including "Monkey See, See Monkey," "The Black Sabbath Vinyl Testament" and his upcoming biography of Chris Poland, founding guitarist of Megadeth.

Herring, who also does comic book shows and Barnes & Noble appearances, enjoys meeting people and stressed the importance of supporting comic book stores in an age of shopping online.

"It's always a good way to really connect and that's what comic book stores do. They create a culture where everybody can come in and you're all like-minded," Herring said. "When you're in a place with other people that are like-minded, it really brings that community even closer."

Herring hopes attendees see "how much fun this life is" and have an opportunity to reconnect with their childhood favorites.

"It's a business where you're not going to come once. You're going to keep coming back," Herring said.

Alvarez wants the community to know his store has something for everyone and to stop by for a visit.

"If you're into manga, if you're into anime, if you're into robots, if you're into spaceships, if you're into Lego, if you're into comic books, we have something for you,"



Turley photos by Kristin Rivers

Christine Goonan poses for a photo holding Thor's hammer, Mjölfnir, during the grand opening of HasBeen Collectible Toys & Comics on Boston Road in Wilbraham.

Alvarez said. "I hope that even if you don't buy anything, you come in and you just have a good experience looking around and remembering. 'Oh I had that, I had that.' You get to relive a little part of your childhood."

Herring's message summed it up best.

"Don't ever grow up. Don't ever change," Herring said.

To learn more, visit hasbeentoysandcomics.com or call 413-278-4389.

Wilbraham Cultural Council distributes \$19,800 in grants to individuals and organizations

WILBRAHAM – The Wilbraham Cultural Council would like to announce that it dispersed \$19,800 worth of community grants to cultural and artistic groups and individuals who will be bringing programming, classes, lectures, art installations, performances and hands on maker activities. The Wilbraham Cultural Council is an arm of the Mass Cultural Council and every town and city in Massachusetts has a Cultural Council. Each council receives a sum of grant money to disperse based on the mission of the individual council.

The nine members of the Wilbraham Cultural Council are volunteer residents appointed by the Selectboard for terms of three years. A copy of the Council's mission and a list of the 2023-2024 grant recipient programs can be found at <http://www.massculturalcouncil.org>.

Highlighting some of the grant recipients, the WCC was proud to fully fund the new actor's microphone audio system for the Minnechaug Drama Club with a grant of \$4,500. Many programs at the Wilbraham Public Library were funded such as hands-on art participatory programs Paint Sip Fun for Teens, Candle Making and Copper Bookmark Making Class. Grants were made to community performance groups such as The Wilbraham Community Chorus, The Old Post Road Orchestra and Wilbraham United Players.

If you or someone you know has a cultural or arts talent to share with the community, the Wilbraham Cultural Council would like to encourage you to apply for a grant in the 2024-25 grant year through the website.



Photo courtesy of Deb Trimble and submitted by Jennifer Powell

The Wilbraham United Players, a Wilbraham acting group that recently received a grant from the Wilbraham Cultural Council.

PUBLIC NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE Sale of Motor Vehicle Under G.L. c. 255 Sec. 39A

Bach Towing Inc., 165 Benton Drive, East Longmeadow, MA is holding a private sale of the following vehicle on 4/26/24 at 2:00 p.m. to satisfy our garage keepers lien thereon for storage and towing charges and expenses of Notices of Sale. 2008 Chevrolet Impala LT VIN: 2G1WT58NX81262860 Ada Castro 140 Chestnut St. Apt 208 Springfield, MA 01103 04/04, 04/11, 04/18/2024

praying that partition may be made of all the land aforesaid according to law, and to that end that a commissioner be appointed to make such partition and be ordered to make sale and conveyance of all, or any part of said land which the Court finds cannot be advantageously divided either at private sale or public auction, and be ordered to distribute the net proceeds thereof after full adjudication of the equitable claims contained in said petition and supplemental memorandum filed with the Court.

If you desire to object thereto, you or your attorney, should file a written appearance in said Court at **Springfield** before ten o'clock in the forenoon on the **twentieth day of May 2024**, the return day of this citation.

Witness, BARBARA M. HYLAND, Esquire, First Justice of said Court, this eighteenth day of March 2024.

Rosemary A. Saccomani, Register 03/28, 04/04, 04/11/2024

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. HD24P0729EA
Estate of:
Gregory J Dargie

Date of Death: 05/20/2019 CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION

To all interested persons: A Petition for **Late and Limited Formal Testacy and/or Appointment** has been filed by **Bryan J Dargie of Westfield, 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: **Bryan J Dargie of Westfield, 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 04/30/2024.**

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: April 02, 2024
Rosemary A Saccomani
Register of Probate
04/11/2024

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. HD24P0727EA
Estate of:
Bernard Gerard Loubier, Sr.

Also known as: Bernard G. Loubier, Sr. Date of Death: 02/01/2024 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 **Matthew D. Loubier of Granville, 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: **Matthew D. Loubier of Granville, 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 04/30/2024.**

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: April 02, 2024
Rosemary A Saccomani
Register of Probate
04/11/2024



Parents,
Grandparents
& Friends
SPECIAL



Honor Your Graduate

HIGH SCHOOL OR COLLEGE

We are offering a great deal for you to celebrate your graduate in your community graduation issue.

Submit a photo and a brief message.

2 x 3 Black & White Graduation Ad

~~Regular Price \$76.00~~

SPECIAL \$55.00

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION MAY 23rd

EMAIL YOUR AD TO:
jwalker@turley.com

MAIL YOUR AD WITH PAYMENT TO:
Turley Publications, 24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069

Pay by check or credit card: Checks Payable to
Turley Publications, Credit Cards be sure to include: Paper, Name,
Address, Phone, Credit Card Number, Exp. Date & CVV

2 x 3 Advertisement

Congratulations
Carrie Smith
We are so
very proud of
you and your
accomplishments.
Good luck
at Springfield
College.



Love Dad. Mom & John

PUBLIC NOTICES

Introducing the Christina's House 2024 Soar for 4 Fundraising Campaign!

SPRINGFIELD - Join us as we soar to new heights in support of Christina's House and the families we serve! This year, we're embarking on a journey of growth, transformation, and security, propelling both moms and families at Christina's House and our organization as a whole into exponential growth.

Every three months this year, we'll set ambitious fundraising goals, each quarter dedicated to a different growth initiative. Our first quarter, "New Beginnings," focuses on supporting all the new families who have recently come to Christina's House.

We would love if you would join with us and be a part of each way every few months that you can make a difference at Christina's House...

Just a few ideas on how you can get involved!

- Like, comment on, and share our social media posts on your wall.
- Make a personal donation of \$10 or more.
- Make a donation through the business or organization you own or work for.
- Challenge your friends and family to match your donations.
- Take a collection at your next church, business, community, friends or family event.
- Keep Christina's House in your Prayers

Every dollar counts! Help us Educate, Encourage, and Embrace the women with children we serve by providing a Home, Hope, and Healing preparing them for "New Beginnings" and generational changes.

Want more information or to get involved in other ways? Contact Carolyn Martinez at carolyn@christinashouse.org

Thank you for your support!
Donate online at <https://www.christinashouse.org/donate>.

Town of Wilbraham PUBLIC HEARING - ENTERTAINMENT LICENSES

The Wilbraham Select Board will hold a hearing under Chapter 140, Section 181 and 183A, and Chapter 136 of the General Laws, to consider new applications for an annual (Monday - Saturday) entertainment license and an annual Sunday entertainment license submitted by Pafumi's Inc. dba Pafumi's on Main at 6 Burt Lane, Suite 101, Wilbraham managed by Mark Pafumi, to include annual entertainment during business hours on Monday - Saturday and on Sundays. The hearing is scheduled for **Monday, April 29, 2024 at 7:10 PM** at the Town Office Building, 240 Springfield Street, Wilbraham. Persons wishing to comment on the proposed licenses will be heard. The hearing will be available in person and virtually (see the meeting agenda for login access).

WILBRAHAM SELECT BOARD
Local Licensing Authority
04/11/2024

LEGAL NOTICE TOWN OF WILBRAHAM INVITATION FOR BIDS PICKLE BALL COURTS

The Town of Wilbraham invites qualified firms to submit written sealed bids for the construction of six (6) Pickle Ball courts to include earthwork, court surfacing, netting, lighting bases (not including wiring for lighting equipment), fencing, utility conduits, and associated site improvements as described herein. The location of the courts is on a Town-owned property known as Memorial School, located at 310 Main Street. Bid documents are available only by contacting Bryan Litz, Director of Parks and Recreation, via email at: blitz@wilbraham-ma.gov

Bidders will be granted access to a Web Portal where the Bid Documents will be available. No hard copies will be available. Once registered in the Web Portal, questions regarding the bid documents may be emailed to the Town's Consultant at: MikeB@rlaland.com
Town Consultant/Engineer:
R Levesque Associates, Inc.
40 School Street
Westfield, MA 01085
Phone: 413.568.0985
Fax: 413.568.0986

Bids are due in the Select Board Office, Wilbraham Town Hall, 240 Springfield Street, 01095 no later than **Wednesday, May 1, 2024 at 2:00 p.m.** Bids will be opened in the Select Board Meeting Room in Town Hall

at approximately 2:05 p.m. Bids shall include "Memorial School Pickle Ball Courts -24-007" on the outside of the envelope. Late bids will not be accepted.

Bid results will be available thereafter on the Town's website under "Bids": <https://www.wilbraham-ma.gov/Bids>. **A pre-bid site visit will take place at Memorial School at 10:00 AM on April 17, 2024.** Attendance is not mandatory, but all bidders are encouraged to attend. A proposal guarantee of 5% of the Bid shall be required. Minimum wage rates have been set. Performance and Payment Bonds shall be 100% of the Contract Amount.

The Wilbraham Recreation Commission shall be the Awarding Authority. The Town reserves the right to waive any informalities and/or reject any or all proposals if, in the Town's sole discretion, it is in the public interest to do so. No bid may be withdrawn within ninety (90) days after the actual date of bid opening. Attention is called to the minimum wage rates to be paid on the work as determined by the Commissioner of Labor and Industries under the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 149, Sections 26 to 27G, inclusive. All bids for this project are subject to the provisions of General Laws, (3rd Ed.) Chapter 30, Section 39M, inclusive as amended.
Bryan Litz, Director
Town of Wilbraham
Department of Parks and Recreation
04/11/2024

PUBLIC NOTICE
This ad is pursuant to MA Gen. Law Ch.255, Sec. 39A as of April 12, 2024 the following motor vehicles will be for sale to satisfy a garage keepers lien:

- 2002 Dodge Ram 150**
VIN: 3D7HU18N22G123820
COLOR: Gray
LKO: Leon Ramos Marie Yarieel
155 Allen St Apt A
Springfield MA 01108
- 2004 Acura TL**
VIN: 19WA66294A069698
COLOR: Gray
LKO: Lois Batay Mulero
40 Sprague St
West Springfield MA 01089
- 2008 Toyota Camry**
VIN: 4T1BE46K88U752541
COLOR: Black
LKO: Yogesh Dava
153 Laconia St
Springfield MA 01129
- 2005 Ford Explorer**
VIN: 1FMZU73E65Z05200
COLOR: White
LKO: Sheila Roberts
768 Oak St
East Hartford CT 06118

2002 Dodge Ram 150
VIN:1D7HU18N75J538070
COLOR: Gray
LKO: Kreanna A Hale
10 Blanding St Apt 1
Indian Orchard MA 01151
R & S Assoc. Inc.
Wilbraham MA 01095
413-596-4374
03.28, 04/04, 04/11/2024

Town of Wilbraham PUBLIC HEARING: NEW ANNUAL LIQUOR LICENSE - FARMER SERIES POURING PERMIT (MALT ONLY) FOR A SEC. 19C LICENSE HOLDER

The Wilbraham Select Board will hold a hearing under Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 138, on **Monday, April 29, 2024 at 7:05pm**, at the Town Office Building, 240 Springfield Street, Wilbraham, to hear public comment on an application for a Farmer Series Pouring Permit (malt only), submitted by Scantic River Brewery, LLC, 6 Burt Lane, Suite #2, Wilbraham, with David J. Avery as the proposed Manager, that was granted a Sec. 19C License on March 22, 2024 by the Alcoholic Beverages Control Commission. Anyone wishing to comment on the application will be heard. This meeting will be conducted in person and virtually (see meeting agenda for details).

WILBRAHAM SELECT BOARD
Local Licensing Authority
04/11/2024

TOWN OF WILBRAHAM LEASE OF SPACE FOR INSTALLATION AND OPERATION OF COMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT

540 Stony Hill Road, Wilbraham, MA 01095
The Wilbraham Select Board invites mobile communications firms to submit proposals "RFP" for the leasing of part of a space located at a Town-owned property, 540 Stony Hill Road, for the installation and operation of wireless communications equipment. The space is identified as an area 200 ft. X 125 ft. on Assessors' Parcel Identification Number 4885. The lease shall be for a period of twenty (20) years.
RFP's will be accepted until 2:00 p.m., April 29, 2024 at the Select Board/Town Administrator's Office, Town of Wilbraham,

240 Springfield Street, Wilbraham, MA 01095. Bids will be publicly opened at approximately 2:05 p.m. in the Select Board's Meeting Room at the same address. Late RFP's will not be considered.

Interested parties will be able to schedule appointments to conduct testing at the Sites the week of April 15-19, 2024. Requests may be made by contacting Nick Breault, Town Administrator, via email at: nbreault@wilbraham-ma.gov no later than April 11, 2024. A Certificate of Insurance must be provided to the Town Administrator's Office no less than two (2) business days in advance of the scheduled date of testing. See RFP for additional details.

Request for Proposals may be obtained from the Town of Wilbraham website on the Bids webpage at: <https://www.wilbraham-ma.gov/Bids.aspx?CatID=19>. They may also be obtained by visiting Combuys: <https://www.combuys.com/bso/> and entering "Wilbraham" in the search bar. Questions may be directed via email to: nbreault@wilbraham-ma.gov. All questions must be submitted in writing to the aforementioned email to nbreault@wilbraham-ma.gov no later than 4:00 p.m. on April 18, 2024. Questions that the Town, in its sole discretion, deems appropriate for a response will be answered in writing via Addenda posted on the Bids page and Combuys. No Addenda shall be issued past April 24, 2024. All bidders shall be responsible for keeping informed on Addenda.

The Town of Wilbraham, acting through its Select Board, reserves the right to waive any informality, to negotiate Lease terms with the successful proposer, to award the Lease of the Property to the proposal deemed in the best interest of the Town, and/or to reject any or all proposals if it is in the public interest to do so. Any Lease Agreement entered shall be contingent on approval by Town Meeting and the Select Board for the Lease of the property. This RFP is issued pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 30B, Section 16, pertaining to lease of Real Property.
04/04, 04/11/2024

C	Y	P	R	U	S	D	A	I	S	E	S		
O	U	T	L	I	N	E	A	N	T	I	B	E	S
S	D	A	T	H	L	E	T	I	C	S	M	P	
A	G	A	T	E	L	E	I	H	A	B	E	R	
G	E	L	S	S	E	G	N	O	L	O	S	E	
E	L	I	F	A	R	G	A	S	U	T	A		
P	R	A	T	T	A	B	L	E	D				
T	C	H	A	D	L	E	E	R	S				
R	O	A	M	E	D	K	I	E	V				
A	P	T	D	A	H	T	I	C	A	A	R		
F	L	I	C	M	A	S	A	N	A	R	E	A	
F	A	C	E	S	R	I	P	I	N	D	R	I	
I	N	C	A	P	A	R	I	S	O	N	I	D	
C	A	R	I	T	A	S	R	E	N	A	M	E	S
R	E	L	I	C	S	S	W	A	M	I	S		

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

<p>USDA INSP. FRESH BONELESS CENTER CUT PORK LOIN CHOPS..... \$2.99 lb</p> <p>USDA INSP. FROZEN BONE-IN CENTER CUT PORK LOIN CHOPS..... \$2.49 lb</p> <p>USDA INSP. STORE MADE ALL VARIETIES ITALIAN SAUSAGE..... \$2.79 lb</p> <p>SLICED IN OUR DELI POLISH LOAF \$4.44 lb</p>	<p>USDA INSP. FRESH BONELESS BEEF TENDERLOIN..... \$9.89 lb</p> <p>USDA INSP. FRESH BONE-IN AMERICAN LAMB SHOULDER CHOPS..... \$7.99 lb</p> <p>USDA INSP. GROUND FRESH DAILY 80% LEAN GROUND BEEF..... \$3.66 7 LB BAG</p>	<p>USDA INSP. FRESH BONELESS BEEF TOP ROUND STEAKS or ROAST..... \$4.99 lb</p> <p>USDA INSP. FRESH BONELESS & SKINLESS CHICKEN BREAST 10 LB BAG..... \$2.09 ea</p> <p>USDA INSP. FROZEN ROASTER CHICKEN..... 99c lb</p> <p>USDA INSP. FROZEN FULLY COOKED BREADED CHICKEN WINGS..... \$3.49 lb</p> <p>USDA INSP. IQF FROZEN COOKED SHRIMP 21/25 COUNT 1 LB BAG..... \$4.44 ea</p>
---	--	---

SOUP'S ON!

<p>USDA INSP. FROZEN BEEF OXTAILS..... \$9.99 lb</p> <p>USDA INSP. FRESH CHICKEN (FOWL) for SOUP..... \$1.49 lb</p> <p>USDA INSP. FROZEN PORK STOMACH..... \$2.59 lb</p>	<p>90 Meat Outlet</p> <p>HOURS: Mon. - Wed. 8-4 Thurs. 8-6 • Fri. 8-6 • Sat. 8-3</p> <p>90 Avocado St. Springfield 413-737-1288 www.90meat.com</p> <p><small>We reserve the right to limit quantities.</small></p>
--	---

SALE DATES: 4/11/24-4/17/24 BUY DIRECT FOR SAVINGS • SELECTION • SERVICE



10TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

Celebrate With Us

Stop into our branch at 1 Crane Park Dr. to enter to win

\$1,000 Grand Prize Raffle!!

Every new account will get 10 raffle entries!



ASK ABOUT OUR ANNIVERSARY SPECIALS

MORTGAGES...

- Save **\$795** on your mortgage purchase/refinance or construction closing costs

AUTO LOANS...

- Receive **0.25%** off your next auto loan rate*

COMING SOON...

- Exclusive **10-Day Anniversary Lending Special**
Call today or stop in to ask for details.



*Restrictions Apply NMLS #255907

