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The Wilbraham-Hampden

TIMES

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Turley photos by Danielle Muir
Volunteers at the 3rd Annual Wilbraham Clean Up Day pose in front of the CARE sign that is being created from litter collected during the event.

Community beautifies Wilbraham at Third Annual Clean Up Day

By Danielle Muir
Correspondent

WILBRAHAM - On April 12, around 80 participants braved unexpected snowfall to participate in the annual Wilbraham Earth Day Cleanup.

Volunteers focused on removing litter from Fountain Park and Tinkham Road, but safety concerns led the police department to advise

against collecting trash from the roadway, deeming that it was unsafe at about 9:30 a.m.

The event was spearheaded by Megan Harrigan, the event chairman for Keep Wilbraham Beautiful, who has long been passionate about addressing litter in Wilbraham. Inspired by her family's own roadside cleanups, she launched the town-wide effort three years ago.

"It's something my family has done for years, and I thought it was about time that Wilbraham did it together," Harrigan said.

What started as a grassroots initiative has gained momentum each year. Thanks to the support of community members, town committees, businesses, and organizations such as the Cub Scouts, the Wilbraham Children's Museum, local

churches, yoga studios, and even real estate offices, the event has expanded in both size and spirit.

This year brought a unique challenge: snow.

"We've done Earth Day cleanups in other towns, and this is the first time we've had snow. It's definitely hard to see the trash today," Jeffrey Smith, co-coordinator

Please see **CLEAN UP**, page 4

WHT hits the road with a visit to Soule Road School



Photos courtesy of Cheryl Erskine
Soule Road Elementary School students raise their hands during the Q & A session with Wilbraham-Times Editor Kristin Rivers during her visit to the school earlier this year.

By Kristin Rivers
Editor
krivers@turley.com

WILBRAHAM - The Wilbraham-Hampden Times had the opportunity to hit the road for a different kind of story earlier this year.

In January, Times Editor Kristin Rivers was invited by Soule Road Elementary School to meet with the fifth-grade classes to talk about the Times as students were interested in writing and journalism and wanted to learn more about getting involved with the newspaper.

Readers may have seen the new "Kids Corner" section in the Times, which runs monthly with a story written by students from the school, chronicling the goings-on

from a recent Science Fair to remembering their beloved colleague and friend Matt Michael Thomas.

Meeting with seven classes of fifth graders in three sessions in the school's library, Rivers reflected on how she got into her career at the Times, her favorite stories, shared a closer look at the team that brings the paper together every week and talked about the newspaper's history.

The visit concluded with a Q&A during each session, where students asked her a variety of questions about the paper translated into different languages, advice on getting into journalism, photography, circulation and more.

Read on to learn more

Please see **WHT**, page 5

Scantic River Artisans host "Spring into Art" Art Show

By Kristin Rivers
Editor
krivers@turley.com

HAMPDEN - The community visited the senior center on April 12 and 13 for the "Spring into Art" Art Show hosted by the Scantic River Artisans.

The two-day event featured a Sunday reception from Noon to 2 p.m., a drawing to win a stunning handcrafted pottery piece, over 100 art pieces including photography, watercolor, sculpture, pastel, mixed media, oil and acrylic paintings and more and ceramics, pottery,

decorative arts and handcrafted jewelry.

New this year was a back wall display of photography, mixed media, graphic, oil pastel, watercolor and acrylic art pieces from students at Minnechaug Regional High School.

The art show was sponsored by Affordable Waste Solutions, Blick Art Materials, La Cucina, Monson Savings Bank, Recreation Association of Hampden and the Friends of Hampden Senior Citizens.

Karen Burke, a mixed-media artist, recently joined the Scantic River Artisans and was featuring her artwork

in the show for the very first time. A friend of hers who's behind writing the backstories for the artwork told her about the association.

She plans to do more shows in the future.

"I've done craft fairs for years and sold my work, I licensed my work to companies and they put it on puzzles and greeting cards and things like that," Burke said.

Burke shared she combines her images in Photoshop and decides what animal she'd like to feature in the artwork, including her bulldog and five cats or other people's pets.

"Then I just find the right



Turley photos by Kristin Rivers
Deb Penna poses for a photo with her graphic art piece, "Follow the Path."

face to go on the artwork and then I texture and I make changes to the colors, the tones, kind of make the old time masters artwork my own to a certain degree," Burke said. "And then the other where it's the Puddleby Portraits, it's all mine."

As an example for the portraits, Burke shared she would take a tulip field for the background and put someone in Victorian dress in the tulip field, followed by choosing an animal for the head.

"It takes a while but it's a lot of fun," Burke said.

Burke enjoyed meeting

Please see **ART SHOW**, page 4

Knights of Columbus hold Easter Food Drive

By Kristin Rivers
Editor
krivers@turley.com

WILBRAHAM - The Knights of Columbus 10195 hosted their Easter Food Drive at the St. Cecilia Parish Center on April 14 and 15.

During the two days, volunteers from the Knights came together to organize and distribute Easter holiday trimmings—including the traditional hams—and grocery store gift cards that went out to 65 families in the community, the Latino ministry of the Diocese of Springfield and a group at St. Michael's Cathedral.

This year, parishioners donated about \$7,000 to support it, with anything left over from the food and gift cards



Turley photos by Kristin Rivers
Members of the Knights of Columbus 10195 pose for a group photo as they get ready to distribute boxes for the Easter Food Drive.

Please see **FOOD**, page 8

Selectboard announces special election for June 23

By Kristin Rivers
Editor
krivers@turley.com

HAMPDEN - The Selectboard has announced a special election will be held on Monday, June 23.

One item on the ballot will be to elect a new Selectboard Member after the announcement of Selectboard Member Craig Rivest's resignation, which will be effective May 19. The member would serve the rest of Rivest's term through May 2027.

The Times has since reached out to Rivest for information and is pending comment.

The other item would depend on the approval of Article 19 at the upcoming

Annual Town Meeting on May 12, which would appropriate a sum of money by borrowing for the repair, renovation and expansion of the fire station.

If approved at town meeting, a debt exclusion vote will also be on the ballot.

Selectboard Member John Flynn shared these words about Rivest during the April 14 meeting.

"We thank Craig Rivest for his service and I understand. It's unfortunate that Craig isn't here to express and he'll have an opportunity at the next meeting I'm sure," Flynn said. "The love that Craig has for this town can't be overstated and it would take, obviously, quite

Please see **ELECTION**, page 3

An overview of Annual Town Meeting Warrant Articles 1-15

By Kristin Rivers
Editor
krivers@turley.com

HAMPDEN - The town of Hampden will hold its Annual Town Meeting on Monday, May 12, at 7 p.m. at the former Thornton W. Burgess Middle School.

There will be 34 warrant articles on the agenda for discussion.

Here, we will review the first 15 warrant articles. For Articles 16 through 34, check out this week's edition.

Consent Agenda Items
Articles One through Six will be part of a consent agenda, meaning they will be acted upon with a single motion and vote. Any registered voter with a question or concern on these can voice an objection and request the town moderator remove the article from the Consent Agenda.

An article can, also, be removed from the Consent Agenda at the town moderator's discretion.

Article One concerns hearing the Annual Town Reports of all officers of the town and any committee whose duty it may be to report at said meeting.

Article Two would authorize the following FY26 spending limits beginning July 1: \$85,000 for the Building Department Fund, \$30,000 for the Cemetery Commission Fund, \$21,000 for the Council on Aging Fund, \$3,000 for the Library Fund, \$25,000 for the Conservation Commission Fund, \$10,000 for the Planning Board Fund, \$20,000 for the Board of Health Fund and \$10,000 for the Electric Vehicle Charging Station Fund.

Article Three would be a vote on a sum of money from the state in accordance with Chapter 90, Section 34 of the

Mass General Laws and Mass-DOT's Chapter 90 guidelines and be allowed to borrow in anticipation of reimbursement for state highway aid.

Article Four is a vote that in FY26 if state aid for the Hampden Free Public Library is received, the money will also be made available for the Library Trustees to use at their discretion.

Article Five would vote to raise and appropriate \$1,000 for the Conservation Fund, which would be used to acquire available land for the town for conservation purposes.

Article Six would be to vote to raise or appropriate \$16,000 to the Board of Assessors for FY26 Massachusetts Department of Revenue-mandated programs.

Town Budget and Finances
Articles Seven through 12 focus on town budget and finances.

Article Seven focuses on the Annual Operating Budget to see if the town will vote to fix the salary and compensation of all elected officers of the town as provided for by Section 108 of Chapter 41 of Mass General Laws. This would also raise and appropriate necessary sums to cover the same and raise money and make appropriations to defray the expenses of the town from July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026.

Article Eight is about appropriating a sum of money to fund operations of the Transfer Station from estimated income to be derived in FY26 Transfer Station operations, the tax levy, a transfer from available funds, including retained earnings of the relevant expense fund or from any combination of these methods.

Article 9 would be to raise and appropriate a sum of money in preparation for activities

for the 150th anniversary of the founding of the town of Hampden in 1878.

Article 10 would vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from unappropriated funds a sum of money to fund the School Resource Officer for FY25 at Minnechaug Regional High School.

Article 11 is to vote to authorize the payment of any departmental bills for FY24 or previous fiscal years and vote to raise and appropriate a sum of money before.

Article 12 concerns a local option for an additional Veterans Exemption Clause 22J, which would increase certain statutory exemption amounts for veterans and their spouses. Also, if the town will vote to implement such an increase by a percentage not to exceed 100% for fiscal years beginning or after July 1, 2025.

Former TWB Reuse
Articles 13 through 15 concern the reuse of the former Thornton W. Burgess Middle School.

Article 13 would be a vote to change the use of a parcel of land, 85 Wilbraham Rd., owned by the town and acquired for school purposes to be used for any lawful municipal purpose subject to the supervision and control of the Selectboard.

Article 14 would vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from unappropriated available funds a sum of money to pay for the moving of the town's administrative offices and library--currently located in the Town House--to the former TWB.

Article 15 would be to raise or appropriate or transfer from unappropriated available funds a sum of money to pay for repairs and renovations to the former TWB.

An overview of Annual Town Meeting Warrant Articles 16-34

By Kristin Rivers
Editor
krivers@turley.com

HAMPDEN - The town of Hampden will hold its Annual Town Meeting on Monday, May 12, at 7 p.m. at the former Thornton W. Burgess Middle School.

There will be 34 warrant articles on the agenda for discussion.

Here, we will review Articles 16 through 34. For an overview of the first 15, check out this week's edition.

Capital Project and Expenditures

Articles 16 through 26 focus on capital projects and expenditures, which would require a vote to raise or appropriate or transfer from unappropriated funds a sum of money for purchases, replacements or repairs.

Article 16 would be to purchase a new lawnmower for maintaining town-owned properties by the Highway Department.

Article 17 would be to purchase a new lawnmower for playing field maintenance by the Parks & Recreation Department.

Article 18 would be to replace and/or repair the roof, windows, bathrooms and septic system at the senior center.

Article 19 would appropriate a sum of money by borrowing to repair, renovate and expand the fire station, including all costs incidental or related thereto. The treasurer, with the Selectboard's approval, would be authorized to issue any bonds or notes necessary, provided however the vote shall be contingent upon approval by voters at an election of a Proposition 2 1/2 debt exclusion, allowing the town to raise the money

needed to repay borrowing outside the limits established by Proposition 2 1/2.

Articles 20 through 22 concern Green Meadows Elementary School to replace the flooring in five to six classrooms, repair the parking lot and extend the fire road and replace the switches in the IT Network.

Articles 23 through 26 concern capital projects at Minnechaug, which are paying a portion of the cost to add or replace split AC units, pay a portion of the cost to upgrade the internal two-way radio repeater, pay a portion of the cost to upgrade the camera system and pay a portion of the cost to purchase a Kubota RTV.

Real Property Transactions

Articles 27 and 28 are for real property transactions.

Article 27 would be to see if the town authorizes the Selectboard to amend a lease agreement between the town and Hampden Landfill Solar LLC, c/o Ameresco Inc, for 18 Cross Rd by expanding the leased area by approximately 1.6 acres.

Article 28 would be to see if the town authorizes the Selectboard to acquire by purchase or otherwise using previously appropriated Community Preservation Funds, an approximately 2.32-acre parcel on North Road for a purchase price not to exceed \$95,000 and said property to be managed and controlled by the Conservation Commission for conservation and passive recreation purposes.

Community Preservation Committee

Article 29 would concern CPC projects, voting to appropriate or reserve from Community Preservation Act

annual revenues, in amounts recommended by the CPC, for administrative expenses, CPC projects and other expenses in FY26. Each item would be considered a separate appropriation.

The first would be for the purchase of shade structures for the spray park at Memorial Park.

The second would be to design, engineer and construct a new trailhead and parking area on an approximate 2.32 acre parcel on North Road.

Zoning Bylaw Amendments

Articles 30 and 31 are for zoning bylaw amendments.

Article 30 would be to amend the zoning bylaw to regulate battery energy storage systems, while Article 31 would be to amend the zoning bylaw to replace its current accessory-dwelling unit bylaw with one that's compliant with recent changes to state law that provides special zoning protections for accessory dwelling units.

Financial Transfers

Lastly, Articles 32 through 34 are for financial transfers.

Article 32 would be to raise and appropriate or transfer from unappropriated available funds a sum of money for the Advisory Committee Reserve Fund.

Article 33 would be to raise and appropriate or transfer from unappropriated available funds a sum of money for deposit into the General Stabilization Fund.

Article 34 would be to transfer a sum of money from unappropriated available funds or from the General Stabilization Fund to reduce the tax rate for FY26.

Bunny Breakfast Thank You

WILBRAHAM - The Wilbraham Junior Women's Club would like to thank all who attended the Bunny Breakfast at St. Cecelia's Catholic Church last Saturday, April 12.

It was wonderful to see so many families come for break-

fast and to meet the Easter Bunny. There were many happy children who were able to take part in the craft and face painting activities.

WJWC would also like to thank Luso Credit Union and the Joseph and Anne C. Dias

Jr. Family Foundation for their generosity and help in supporting the breakfast. We look forward to continuing this wonderful partnership and tradition next Easter.

FOH Senior Citizens upcoming events

HAMPDEN - The Friends of the Hampden Senior Center would like to announce this event coming up - PLEASE SAVE THE DATE!!

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

This event will

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

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


This event is sponsored by The Friends of The Hampden Senior Citizens and although it is free we

will gladly accept any monetary donation. These donations fund the programs and events that are held at the center for all who attend.

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


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

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New Wilbraham firefighter brings extensive background to the table

The Select Board unanimously approved Michael Minahan on April 14

By Dalton Zbierski
Correspondent

WILBRAHAM – Wilbraham’s newest firefighter is bringing considerable experience to the department.

Michael Minahan, a Hadley fire lieutenant from East Longmeadow, served two decades in the military before spending the past 15 years in the fire service.

Minahan is a husband and a father to two children. He sought to join the Wilbraham Fire Department to get closer to home. While answering questions from Select Board members on Monday, Minahan described his love for the industry and the brother- and sisterhood that it entails.

“I love being a firefighter. Most of my adult life I’ve been doing this,” Minahan said. “When I got out of the military active duty back in 2007, I was looking for something with that comradery. Joining the Air National Guard, I got a little bit of that, but the fire service was that other missing piece. I jumped in headfirst.”

In addition to working for

the Hadley Fire Department, Minahan has also served as an instructor for the Massachusetts Fire Academy. He said he has taught a number of Wilbraham’s current firefighters and is excited about reuniting with them and returning to an area he knows better.

Minahan was asked what a good trait in a firefighter is, and he answered that empathy is significant.

“Whether you’re a leader or not, just having empathy for everybody on your crew, going through what they’re going through [is important],” Minahan said. “It’s hard to be in charge of people if you can’t relate to them; do what they do, know what they know.”

Minahan noted that in the fire service, only a small percentage of the job involves putting out fires. A much larger amount of work is centered around EMS and community prevention activities. Again, he stressed the importance of being able to relate to others, regardless of circumstance and who they are.

“You go through a lot on the ambulance and get a lot of calls and get very busy, so if you’re not able to jump in and help out and know what they’re going through, whether you’re a leader or just a member of the team, is huge,” Minahan said.

He added that it’s important to be a good follower, even if you’re in a leadership position, because there will always be orders from someone. Knowing your limitations is also important in the field.

“If you can’t do something, don’t try. It’s not the time to do it,” Minahan said.

When asked about the industry, Minahan said it’s rapidly changing. He blamed the COVID-19 pandemic for setting the fire industry on a different course.

Just prior to the pandemic, there was a program Minahan liked called “T3: Treatment, Transport and Triage.” He would like to see it come back.

“It was a program where instead of just transporting everybody to the hospital and sometimes just sending them to the waiting room, it was treating them on scene for stuff that they didn’t need to go to the hospital for or bring them to an Urgent Care as opposed to a busy hospital,” Minahan said.

Minahan also placed an emphasis on safety. He said safety is the only reason permissible for disobeying a direct order.

“Safety is the only time where we ever allow anybody to violate a direct order. If it’s safety of a crew or maybe

it’s something that the officer doesn’t see,” Minahan said. “They say go into the building and do something, but they’re not seeing the whole picture because they’re focused on something else. Those are the times, but it’s not a hard no and stand there. You have to explain why you’re disobeying a direct order.”

When asked to list something unique about his job, Minahan said he has helped complete four mountain rescues this year, which is more than anyone else in his department. He did one earlier this month in Hadley when it snowed.

Minahan was asked if he would change anything about the profession, and he joked he’d like to see an “open checkbook.”

Realistically, he said he loves his job, and there’s very little he would change about it. He did say he would like to see alterations to the statewide EMS system because one doctor in the eastern part of the state determines what first responders can do across Massachusetts.

Minahan said the solution might be to narrow EMS calls locally, although he said he agrees with most of the statewide mandates. He’d just like some room for flexibility in certain scenarios.

ELECTION from page 1

a bit for him to make this action. We appreciate every minute he’s given to the board.”

Chair Don Davenport echoed Flynn’s words.

“As John was saying earlier, when he resigned, it was good to have someone who’s younger than us on for a different perspective,” Davenport said.

The board then discussed the dates for scheduling the special election.

“Obviously, I think it would behoove us to have both on the same date so as not to bring people out twice. You want the ultimate participation,” Flynn said.

Flynn added what Town Clerk Eva Wiseman shared with the board about the timing.

“The town clerk has said it’s a minimum of 64 days from the date of notice,” Flynn said. “So, if we take that date and all those going back, it cannot be until sometime in June.”

After Davenport noted June 22-a Sunday-the following day of Monday, June 23, was mentioned to be the earliest a special election could be held after the announcement of the letter of resignation.

“So, we did that tonight,” Davenport said.

Town Administrator Brian Domina then checked the numbers, which would be 64 days out from

April 14.

“Google says June 17,” Domina said.

“June 17. So, if we did it, that’s a Tuesday,” Davenport said. “So, we do the 23rd that would be plenty of enough days.”

Turning to the fire department item, Davenport said this.

“We could wait until the town meeting. If the town meeting votes no, then it wouldn’t go on the ballot,” Davenport said. “If we vote yes, then we can put it on the ballot on the same day because we have to give 35-day notice.”

Flynn agreed.

“Because that part we can expand the ballot. Right now, we’re going to set the ballot for a special election for Selectman,” Flynn said. “We can add a question following the town meeting.”

Domina then checked on 35 days from May 12, which came out to Monday, June 16. Therefore, if the fire department repair, renovation and expansion is passed at the May 12 Annual Town Meeting, it could be on the ballot for the special election.

Flynn then mentioned that the Selectboard’s next meeting after Annual Town Meeting would be May 19.

“The 19th may not give us enough time. We may want to schedule a meeting for May 13 because we need the results to vote the question,” Flynn said.

After Davenport agreed on a May 13 meeting, Flynn made the motion to announce the special election for June 23, 2025.

It was unanimously approved.

Rotary Club to hold another Calendar Raffle

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

The raffle is different from the one held last year in that, in addition to cash prizes, there will also be gift cards to many national chains with outlets in the Greater Springfield area, such as Home Depot and Dunkin. Thirty prizes will be awarded in the month of May. “There will be a winner every day. That gives every entry many chances to win,” announced club raffle co-chairman Tim Tracy of Wilbraham. To purchase a calendar contact Ann Marie Ottoson at 413-530-5996. Proceeds will be given back to the community said Tracy.

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

VFW Post 9397 hosting Bingo Fundraiser

HAMPDEN – The VFW Post 9397 will be hosting a Purse and Tools Bingo Night on Friday, May 9. The first game starts at 6 p.m.

Tickets are \$40 per person and includes 10 bingo cards for each round. Additional cards can be bought and there will also be raffle prizes.

Bring your own food ONLY. Drinks available for purchase. The VFW and Auxiliary Post 9397 is located at 190 Main St. in Hampden.

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Wilbraham-Hampden Times

OBITUARY POLICY

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries.

One is a free, brief **Death Notice** listing the name of deceased, date of death and funeral date and place.

The other is a **Paid Obituary**, costing \$275, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice and may include a photograph. **Death Notices & Paid Obituaries** should be submitted through a funeral home to: obits@turley.com.

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

ART SHOW from page 1

the other artists and people coming in during the art show.

“Looking and appreciating. The gentleman that came up to me and gave me a poem that was inspired by the rabbit picture. It was just so sweet,” Burke said.

SRA President Laura Salerno was thrilled with the turnout, including the new artists showcasing their work such as three of her pottery students and the students from Minnechaug.

“I think it’s fantastic. It gives the kids an opportunity to see their stuff framed in a real art show. We’ve already seen a couple of the kids come through to see what’s going on with their families,” Salerno said.

Seeing the younger people getting involved in art was exciting for Salerno, calling them the next up-and-coming artists.

“That is our future, so if we can get them involved now, can you just imagine how they’ll just grow into beautiful artists down the road? You can’t teach the arts enough with these kids,” Salerno said. “And the fact that the high school is getting involved so much--they’ll be involved quite a bit with our October show as well--but getting them involved is so important, not only for the student but for the parents, for the grandparents, for the friends to come to see and show off what they’re doing.”

In addition to the upcoming



A table displaying varying art pieces during the “Spring into Art “ Art Show on April 12 and 13.



A shot of the art pieces created by students at Minnechaug Regional High School.

ing Juried Art Show on June 21 and 22, Salerno also encourages residents to sign up for the Scratchboard Art class on May 29 from 6 to 7:30 p.m. The event is part of the arts association’s Interactive Learning Through Art class-

es.

“Our Interactive Learning Through Art classes are getting bigger and bigger and better,” Salerno said. “This scratchboard will be done by Cathy Guidetti, she’s phenomenal. She really is. So



Nan Hurlburt at Tangled Vine Jewelry talks with attendees about her jewelry and shows options available for purchase.



Melanie Newhouse shows off her glass globes filled with spring nature scenes.

she’s going to have three or four different options. That will be a big one.”

Burke wants the community to know about the artists in their own backyards and to come to support them.

“I think it’s just to know

that there are a lot of artists out there and we’re doing what we love and we like to share it,” Burke said. “It’s just being seen and sharing our passion with everybody.”

Salerno’s message for attendees was this.



A metal dog sculpture from Metal Artist Brian McQuillan was also featured in the art show.



Karen Burke holds up her mixed media piece, “The Yawn.” Burke is a new member o the Scantic River Artisans and taking part in her first art show.

“Thank you, we appreciate all the support that the community gives us. Keep coming back because there’s always new pieces to be made and seen by the general public and the community,” Salerno said.

CLEAN UP from page 1

of the event, said.

It snowed steadily throughout the morning, coating grass and sidewalks and making trash collection more difficult. People trickled in slowly, with fewer volunteers arriving at once than in past years. By midmorning, there were around 80 participants.

Smith highlighted the remarkable community backing.

“We had over 100 people register, and we were expecting closer to 300 this year, but we are still glad people came despite the snow. It truly shows how much people care about this town,” Smith said.

Despite the cold and falling snow, volunteers of all ages showed up with warm layers and high energy.

“This is what Wilbraham is all about,” said Tracey

Plantier, who was working near the town green. “Even in the snow, we show up.”

About 10 to 20 people also collected litter despite snowy conditions, resulting in over 200 nips collected. Many attendees expressed their intent to continue litter collection in the coming weeks, especially in tree belts.

Participants appreciated the event for fostering community spirit and support, and several people shared how much they appreciate the event—not only because it helps clean the streets—but because it reminds them that they’re not alone and that others care, too.

Organizers hope to send the message that this event isn’t just about removing trash — it’s about sending a message.

“Our goal isn’t to collect more trash each year,” Smith said. (They collected 7,000lbs

of trash last year). “Our success would be measured by collecting less because people stop littering.”

The cleanup has become a bonding experience for residents, too. From families like the Nichols and Cub Scout leaders like Jeff Choinski and Carrie Ann Stebenne, to volunteers like Jay Gagliarducci, everyone plays a role in preserving the town’s beauty.

As one young volunteer, Kayleigh, put it: “We’re part of the community — we want to keep our town clean. Let’s turn trash into something meaningful.”

Organizers have decided that there will be a Wilbraham Clean-Up Part 2 on Friday, May 3, 2025 between 8 a.m. to Noon. This event will be a low-key, self-serve litter pick-up at Fountain Park with no registration required.

The goal is to use up the remaining supplies includ-

ing vests, grabbers, buckets, gloves, trash bags and ice cream cups that are already available at the park. A map will help volunteers track cleaned areas.

Harrigan’s family will also assist with set-up and participation, with a final decision on the event’s status being made on April 30 based on the weather forecast.

The CARE Art Piece also featured at the Clean Up generated excitement and discussions too, and community members are encouraged to contribute plastic waste to fill it.

Residents are reminded to stay safe, follow police guidelines and take pride in even the smallest contributions to keeping Wilbraham beautiful. Let’s keep the energy going and continue making an impact together!



Cari Stebenne, Jeff C., Tarri C., Caleb C., Drew Mullen, John Stebenne, Joe Stebenne, Lily Harrigan, Zoe Harrigan, Max Harrigan, Sophia Bennett and Mita Tsim in a group photo.



Turley photos by Danielle Muir
Volunteers smile in front of the Keep Wilbraham Beautiful sign.

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HIGHWAY LABORER

The Town of Hampden Highway Department is seeking qualified applicants for the position of Highway Laborer. This position is responsible for the general maintenance of Town roads, Town sidewalks and Town properties under the direction of the Highway Superintendent. The successful candidate will be required to operate light motorized and hydraulic equipment and to participate in snow removal and sanding work as assigned. All applicants must possess a valid Class B CDL, 2B Hoisting License, and OSHA 10 certification. Qualified applicants must possess the skills and knowledge necessary to perform general road and grounds maintenance along with the ability to operate and maintain all associated tools and equipment. Applicants with the skills and experience to perform maintenance/repairs on trucks and equipment, welding, and the use of other garage tools, along with light construction and snowplowing experience will be favorably considered. The position is regularly scheduled for forty (40) hours per week (Mon.-Fri. 7 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.) with occasional weekend and evening hours as required. Excellent retirement and health insurance benefits are provided. Starting base compensation is \$28.73 per hour plus overtime rates when applicable. A complete job description is available at www.hampdenma.gov. Interested applicants should email a cover letter and resume to highway@hampdenma.gov. Please call the Hampden Highway Department at (413) 566- 8842 with questions.

The Town of Hampden is an equal opportunity employer.

WHT from page 1
about the Times’ visit.

Inspiring the Next Generation of Journalists
When Cheryl Erskine at Soule Road Elementary School sent me photos and stories from time to time about activities at the school, we talked more about the students’ interest in contributing to the paper and being interested in journalism.
It was from those conversations that I thought, why not bring the Times to their school to talk about the paper?

She was on board immediately and with help from her and Principal Mistie Parsons, it began coming together.
Through a PowerPoint presentation, I talked to the students about what’s typically found inside our weekly papers, the team behind the paper from our editorial team to graphics, the newspaper’s history, how to obtain a job at a newspaper, how I got into the job, how one can get involved with the paper--which would be writing, sending photos for our center spread, etc.--and my favorite parts of the job.
For my favorite stories, I shared they were the Trot for Tom event in September 2024, our interview with Minnechaug graduate Carla Patullo who was nominated for--and later won--a Grammy Award, holiday-themed events, the Memorial Day and Veterans Day ceremonies and profiles on residents and organizations making a positive impact on their communities.
Also, most importantly, the Five W’s and One H, which are the who, what, when, where, why and how when putting together a story.
Having the opportunity to take our paper right to



Photos courtesy of Cheryl Erskine
A shot of the fifth grade students at Soule Road Elementary School as they watch the presentation on the Wilbraham-Hampden Times.



The presentation to the fifth grade students at Soule Road Elementary School was held in the school’s library.

the people in Wilbraham in a new way was an experience that has stayed with me over the last several months. Most of all, the enthusiasm from the students as they asked me their questions about my work and the paper and what they could do to have a career in journalism someday.
It’s opportunities like this that keep me hopeful about the next generation and, also, gain a different perspective about our impact through this community newspaper I’ve come to cherish through my work these last two years.
After establishing a “Kids Corner” section for the Times, the stories the students have sent me have inspired me all

anew and even comforted me. The remembrance article for Matt Michael Thomas left me in tears at my desk the week I received it as I was in the middle of mourning when a work connection through covering my hometown paper in Chicopee--who also became a friend--had passed away a week earlier.
Following the presentation at Soule Road School, the numerous thank you cards I received from the students--that they all made together--also had me in tears, knowing and understanding our work makes a difference for, also, our youngest community members.
In a world where it’s hard



Wilbraham-Hampden Times Editor Kristin Rivers talks about the team behind the newspaper.

to find the good at times, where even ourselves in the news industry can have the opportunity to find the good or give the good to others, it makes your work all the more worthwhile and inspires you to keep doing what you’re doing.
Especially so the next generation can have the opportunities that you’ve had.
I would like to thank Cheryl, Principal Parsons and the students and teachers at Soule Road Elementary School for having me come to talk about the Times. It was an amazing opportunity to meet the next generation

of aspiring writers and journalists, and even inspire the adults too!
I’m still blown away by the questions the students asked me, their enthusiasm for the news and the stories they’ve shared for our “Kids Corner” every month since. It is so reassuring--and exciting--to see the next generation get involved in local news and want to share stories with the community.
It’s safe to say the Times will be in good hands when future generations step up to the helm, and we will continue doing what we do best: sharing the news.

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WILBRAHAM ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

Monday, May 12, 2025, 6:30 P.M.

Minnechaug Regional High School Auditorium

- All Wilbraham voters are encouraged to attend the Annual Town Meeting.
The meeting will start at 6:30 P.M. Please arrive early as the Meeting will begin on-time as soon as a quorum of fifty voters are present.
The 50 Warrant Articles for consideration include:
- 27 Budget and Consent Agenda Articles (\$55,053,871 Proposed Budget Appropriation for FY26)
 - 1 Article to Authorize Borrowing for Water Infrastructure (\$4,000,000 Limit Proposed)
 - 4 Articles Relative to the HERO Act (Veterans’ Tax Exemptions)
 - 1 Article to Adopt a Local Option Meals Excise Tax (0.75%)
 - 3 Zoning By-Law Amendments Regarding: Regulation of Accessory Dwelling Units; Regulation of Large-Scale Ground-Mounted Solar Energy Systems, and Regulation of Used Vehicle Sales
 - 1 Article for the Acceptance of Deeds
 - 6 Community Preservation Act Projects, including:1 Community Preservation Program Budget and 5 CPA Projects for Preservation of Historical Records in the Town Clerk’s Office, Exterior De-Leading and Restoration of the Old Meeting House and Hearse House, a Spec Pond Recreation Complex Walking Path, Updates and Improvements at Amy’s Sparkle Park, a Pavilion, Permanent Benches and Replacement of Kiosk for Crane Hill Disc Park, and Playground Equipment at Stony Hill School
 - 2 Articles for Land Taking for Sidewalk Improvement Projects at the Intersections of Stony Hill Road and Springfield Street Road and Stony Hill Road and Boston Road
 - 1 Article for Adoption of a Town-Wide 25 MPH Speed Limit
 - 2 Petitioned Articles: 1 Relative to Flag Raising on Municipal Property, and 1 Requesting the Town Apply to the MA ABCC to Increase the Off-Premises All-Alcoholic Beverages Liquor Licenses
 - 1 Article for a Non-Binding Resolutions Relative to a Plastic Bag Ban

Look for the Town Meeting Workbook in the Wilbraham home-delivered May 1, 2025 edition of the Wilbraham-Hampden Times.
Visit the Town’s website for the Workbook, Warrant, Exhibits and related documents at: www.wilbraham-ma.gov

VIEWPOINTS



Will my Social Security increase if I keep working after applying?

Dear Rusty:
I am going to be 67 in a few weeks and I plan on working for another year or two.

According to Social Security, they count the best 35 years to come up with your benefit. I currently have 30 years, with 2024 and 2025 taxes yet to be filed. If I take my benefit now, will I get an upward adjustment after filing my taxes for those years or do I need to wait to apply for SS until after filing my taxes to get credit for those years?

Signed: Still Working

Dear Still Working:
Whenever you claim your Social Security benefit, SSA will look at your lifetime earnings record on file at the time as received from the IRS and calculate your “Primary Insurance Amount” using that record on file. They will use your highest earning 35 years to do that calculation and, if you do not yet have 35 years, they will use “zero \$\$” enough times to make it 35 years. In other words, your benefit will always be calculated using 35 years, whether you actually have 35 years of earnings on record or not.

However, Social Security revisits your earnings record whenever additional information is received from the IRS, so if file your taxes and add the additional year’s income after you start your Social Security benefits, you will get credit for those additional earnings. Essentially, you will be replacing one of the “zero \$\$” years originally used to calculate your benefit amount and Social Security will recalculate your monthly amount to reflect that, resulting in an increase to your monthly benefit.

Thus, as long as you

work and earn and report your earnings to the IRS, Social Security will update your record and automatically give you a higher benefit if warranted by your more recent earnings. That recalculation usually happens later in the year after April 15, but Social Security will make any increase retroactive to the beginning of the calendar year, so you will get any higher benefit effective with January.

So, since you have already reached your Full Retirement Age, you can (if you wish) apply for Social Security now and be confident that Social Security will give you credit for any additional earnings after you apply. And for clarity, if you choose to wait beyond your full retirement age to claim, you will earn Delayed Retirement Credits (DRCs), which will continue to increase your monthly benefit amount until you are 70 years of age. DRCs will add 8% to your PIA for each full year you delay (.667% for each month you delay past your FRA).

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

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Wilbraham Hampden Times



Letters to the Editor

Joe Cantalini running for Planning Board

To the Editor,

I’m running for Planning Board because I care about how we shape our town’s future. I grew up in Wilbraham. And I’ve made it a priority to understand how our town works—attending meetings, talking with residents, and learning how I can contribute in ways that align the town’s needs with my strengths: thoughtful problem-solving, active listening, and long-term thinking. I believe in planning that’s transparent, sensible, and grounded in fairness and sustainability.

I’ve watched Wilbraham evolve over the years, balancing its small-town character with new development. I understand how deeply people care about preserving what makes this place special, and I want to ensure we make decisions that reflect those values. Good planning should honor

our history while responsibly preparing for the future.

Planning isn’t just about land use. It’s about how we live, move, connect, and thrive. Residents are concerned about how we balance housing options with neighborhood character, how business can grow without changing the town’s feel, and how we protect open space. These are complex questions that deserve care, fairness, and transparency.

My background includes crafting and navigating government policy, working with city departments on permitting and compliance, and leading manufacturing operations. That experience gives me insight into how local government decisions affect communities and businesses on the ground—and how to weigh trade-offs with integrity and practicality.

I’m not doing this to

push an agenda. I care about good governance and want to earn public trust through the steady work of listening well to residents and different perspectives, asking hard questions, and making thoughtful decisions that protect the town we all love while planning for its future. I believe in process that’s clear, decisions that are explainable, and outcomes that are accountable to the whole community. I’ll do that work with humility and an open door.

I’d be honored to serve Wilbraham as a Planning Board member. I will bring care, thoughtfulness, and a deep respect for this community to every decision we make together.

Learn more at cantalini-forwilbraham.com

Joe Cantalini, Wilbraham

Vacation plans, anyone?

Many people plan trips over April vacation! Not me, I am planning an escape to the garden.

I have been chomping at the bit to do some gardening in spite of this crazy, post-winter weather we are having. Can you believe it snowed twice last week?

Maybe a dusting at your house, but Saturday’s snowfall was a despicable four inches! At least forecasts for this upcoming week are improving, and I’m hoping that vacation week’s are even better.

While it’s best to wait until Memorial Day to sow bean and squash seeds, as well as transplant your tomato and pepper seedlings into the garden, there are many veggies that thrive in cooler spring temperatures. Here is a re-cap of a column from a few years back, outlining the veggie seeds that can be sown in the garden now:

Beet seeds can be planted as soon as the soil can be worked. Sow them close together and thin to three inches apart for full size beets – use the culled greens in salad. For a pretty beet try Chiogga for its alternating stripes of pink and white; pick early for best quality.

More interested in beet greens than beets themselves? Beautiful Bull’s Blood grows well throughout the summer months without getting bitter.

Carrots will also grow well under cool conditions, although they may take longer to come up. Keep them moist to hasten germination. Experts recommend sowing

fast-growing radish seeds to mark carrot rows as well as provide shade (and therefore moisture retention).

I’ve also heard of folks covering rows of carrot seeds



with burlap or straw for the same reason. For the longest, straightest roots, be sure the seed bed is deep and rock-free. Thin twice, with an ultimate spacing of one inch apart.

Amazingly enough, carrots come in all shades of yellow and orange, purple and red, even white. Try Yellowstone, Atomic Red, Purple Haze and White Satin for an extremely colorful coleslaw.

Lettuce is one of the best crops to start now. In fact, it won’t germinate at all when soil temperatures top 75 degrees.

Sow your seeds every couple of weeks for a continuous supply throughout the summer. Get creative with lattice or interplant with other crops to give lettuce a break from sun and heat.

When all your friends are complaining that their salads are bitter, you’ll be rewarded for your efforts with sweet greens. Look for seeds that suit your season. Consider New Red Fire or Slobolt for growing in the summer months; Tango or Lollo Rossa for fall and winter season extension.

Parsnips, like carrots, take a long time to come up and need consistent moisture in order to germinate. Try some of the tricks I mentioned above or just be diligent with the hose.

Old Sturbridge Village grows two great heirloom varieties – Hollow Crown and Student. Harvest some after a few hard frosts in the fall, but hold on harvesting the rest until early spring.

You will be in for a sweet surprise.

Peas have been a favorite plant of mine for the last several years. Sow them now and provide support for all but the dwarfest varieties. I plant them around the perimeter of my garden up against the fence, and will utilize “pea brush” for another row or two within the garden.

Be on the lookout for cut worms – in my garden they nearly always decimated my crop. If you see pea seedlings cut off at the soil line, gently cultivate around your plant and dispose of the chubby green or golden caterpillars.

Oregon Giant is a great snow pea, with flat pods perfect for stir fries. Tall Telephone (aka Alderman) is nearly six feet tall under optimal conditions, and yields upwards of 30 pounds of peas per one hundred foot row.

Spinach is another crop that must be started early to ensure success, and a crop I can’t quite seem to master. I was never satisfied with the meal or two I ate before the plants bolted – I wanted more!

So instead of growing regular spinach, I now grow New Zealand Spinach. It isn’t a true spinach, nor does it resemble one, but it can be grown throughout the summer and substituted for cooked spinach in nearly any recipe.

Soak the large seeds overnight before sowing to hasten germination. Pinch off and use the waxy leaves when they reach two or three inches long. New Zealand spinach also freezes extremely well.

Enjoy these earliest days in the garden; I know I will! The best vacation ever spent.

Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For 33 years she has held the position of staff horticulturist at Old Sturbridge Village. She enjoys growing food as well as flowers. Have a question for her? Email it to pouimette@turley.com with “Gardening Question” in the subject line.

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.

The Wilbraham-Hampden

TIMES

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Editorial Policy

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

Correction Policy

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

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

Election letters to the editor welcome

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

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

Campaign news

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

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

Life in &

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

WILBRAHAM HAMPDEN

Senior Center Director visits Rotary...



Times photo and caption
Charlie Bennett

Director of Elder Affairs Paula Dubord, a 60-year resident of Wilbraham, is greeted by Brad Sperry of the Wilbraham-Hampden Rotary Club at their April 9 meeting at the Country Club of Wilbraham. Dubord described the many different activities going on at the one-year old center and said, "Socialization is very important for senior citizens." (Charles F. Bennett photo)

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Jane Budynkiewicz retires



Jane Budynkiewicz, coordinator for the Health Department and a prior clerk for the Planning Board, officially retired on April 17 and was celebrated in a surprise retirement party at the Hampden Town House on her last day. The fire and police departments and Selectboard members were among the visitors sending their well wishes.



Submitted photo John Flynn

Jane Budynkiewicz receives well wishes from Selectboard Members John Flynn and Craig Rivest and Selectboard Chair Don Davenport.

Hampden County Sheriff's office visits My Magic World Daycare



Submitted photos Georgina Guerrero

Chief Robert Hoffman from the Hampden County Sheriff's Office paid a special visit to kids at My Magic World Daycare on April 17, bringing a canine friend in celebration of Pet Day.



Jane Budynkiewicz has been an inspiration for the Town of Hampden. Jane's dedication, devotion, and perseverance has been astounding. The Town of Hampden is a better place for everything you have done. Our department salutes you!



Photo and caption courtesy of Hampden Fire Department

We would like to wish Jane Budynkiewicz a happy retirement from the Town of Hampden! On top of serving various roles for the town, she also served as our Fire Department Admin for 23 years. Enjoy your retirement Jane!

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Via Appia

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NEW MENU!

Thomas P. Laurino

Longtime Wilbraham resident

Died on April 17, 2025.

Wilbraham Funeral Home is assisting the family.

Wilbraham-Hampden Times

OBITUARY POLICY

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries.


One is a free, brief **Death Notice** listing the name of deceased, date of death and funeral date and place.

The other is a **Paid Obituary**, costing \$275, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice and may include a photograph.

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

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

Lori Callahan promoted to Funeral Director



WILBRAHAM—Wilbraham Funeral Home announces that Lori (Green) Callahan has satisfied all the requirements of the Commonwealth of MA division of Occupational Licensure and has been issued a license from the Commonwealth of MA Board of Embalming and Funeral Directing.

Callahan received a Bachelor of Arts degree in English from St. Michael's College, Vermont, and an Associate degree in Mortuary Science from North Shore Community College, Danvers, MA.

She was awarded the 2024 President's Award by the MA Funeral Directors Assn. in recognition of her exceptional promise as a funeral service practitioner and future leader in our professional community.

She began her career at Wilbraham Funeral Home in 2011 and has advanced from office manager to licensed funeral director.

Managing Funeral Director Ellen O'Brien stated, "I am thrilled to work together with Lori Callahan on our funeral team. She pours her heart into every aspect of this profession. Her hard work and dedication to the families we serve is second to none."

Lori is a lifelong Wilbraham resident, active communicant of St. Cecilia Church and a Commonwealth of MA Notary Public.

For more information, please call Wilbraham Funeral Home at 413.596.6100 or visit us online at www.wilbrahamfuneral-home.com.

FOOD from page 1

split equally to The Gray House and the Community Survival Center.

The local family distributions were coordinated by Sister Mary McCue and Parish Director Annette Bishop.

Knights member John Hegarty explained the food drive has gone on for several years and the Knights also hold a food drive ahead of Thanksgiving.

"We work with Big Y and they've been wonderful over the years. They delivered a big pallet of all the bulk food--like cases and cases of this and that, all the different things that go in the boxes, green beans, corn, gravy, rice, mashed potatoes--so a variety of items," Hegarty said. "They deliver them in bulk here at the threshold of the hall. The guys take those carts, we haul everything over to a set of tables right down the middle, cut everything open and then one item goes into each of the 65 boxes, which we had to tape together first thing yesterday morning. So, we put together the 65 boxes, taped them all up, lined them on all the tables and then each item gets put into a box so that every box is the same. Everybody gets the same things."

Hegarty said the community support was wonderful, sharing how years ago, a woman made a donation and included a note that said, "When I was a young mother, I needed help with food and I turned to a local food bank and they helped me and I never forgot that and now I'm happy that I'm able to help out the other way to give back."

"It's heartening to know that there are people out there who need help, that we're able to provide that help," Hegarty said.

John Philip helped deliver the hams to the parish, sharing he's participated in the Easter Food Drive for 14 years.

"I always liked this project because this was one project where we could get hugs and we got to know some of the



Turley photos by Kristin Rivers

John Hegarty sorts boxes in the conference room at St. Cecilia Parish for distribution to local families.



Volunteers help organize the hams that will go with the boxes on April 15.

people that we're picking it up this morning because they're the same organizations that pick it up at the other food drive," Philip said. "And some of them are the same people that we deliver coats to around Thanksgiving, and Ellen and I are heavily involved in that project, so you get to know the people that are close to the receivers."

Philip noted addressing food insecurity when reflecting on the importance of the food drive and being able to help people in need close to home.

"It is nice when you actually meet the people that are receiving it. You become close friends with these people too," Philip said. "This is a real good project to be a part of."

Dr. Thomas Wadzinski has done the food drive in the last several years. A parishioner of St. Cecilia's, he was approached by a Knight to join the organization.

"There's a lot of effort that goes into just kind of organizing and getting ready just to bring it out to the different organizational kind of hubs that take a number of boxes. But, also, couple volunteers--and I've done this in the past--(have) gone out to par-

ticular families in the area to kind of give them their box," Wadzinski said. "Kind of that interaction and being able to give that to them, it's a nice thing to be a part of. It definitely makes the work worthwhile and helps out the community."

Wadzinski encourages anyone interested in joining to check out the Knights at one of their meetings.

"People that are interested can certainly show up, kind of get some information and we also have our website to get information as to what we're doing," Wadzinski said. "If you're interested in joining, we're more than happy to have you."

To learn more about the Knights, visit kofcwilbraham.com.

Hegarty wished the community a Happy Holy Week and Easter and shared this message.

"I would just say that the Knights are happy to provide food that stays within the community and we're happy to help people in the community," Hegarty said. "And I would just say encourage everyone to help out in whatever way they can, whether it's contributing to our Easter Food Drive or a food drive that maybe is happening at their church or their community organization. It would be great if just everybody would do what they could and they kind of pay it forward."

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Hartsprings Truck Drive Thank You

HAMPDEN - On behalf of The Friends of The Hampden Senior Citizens, I want to thank all of you for attending and donating to The Hartsprings Drive on Saturday April 12th.

Even though it was a cold, snowy and rainy day, you came out to donate all your unused or unwanted items. We filled the Hartsprings truck by 1 p.m.

The Hartsprings Foundation supports Big Brothers and Big Sisters and also by weighing the truck full of items, a donation is paid back to the senior center and these funds are used to support the programs offered at the center on a daily basis, Monday Through Friday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Please check The Scribe, the publication produced by the center that lists in detail all the events that occur including the menu for the lunch program.

I would also like to especially thank the members and outside volunteers including The Key Club fellows from Minnechaug Reginal High School, who arrived and worked extremely hard unloading the patrons' cars. A special thanks to Bethlehem Church for allowing us to use their parking lot for this Fundraiser.

All of you made it a success.

Next, Save the Date, Pro-Shred will be in the parking lot of the Senior Center, 104 Allen Street Hampden from Noon until 2 p.m. only on Friday May 16. Bring your papers and the like that need shredding, however, only five small bags or boxes can be taken from each car.

This event is free, but donations for the Hampden Seniors is always accepted. Please call Joan Shea at 566-8224 with any questions.

63rd Annual VFW Post Kids Fishing Derby

HAMPDEN – The 63rd Annual VFW Post 9397 Kids Fishing Derby will be taking place on Saturday, May 10 from 10 a.m. to Noon.

Signups are at 9 a.m.

There will be food and drinks including coffee and donuts, hot dogs, chips and soda and cotton candy. Children eat for free and donations from adults are welcome.

Trophies will be given out for Smallest Overall and Biggest Fish (Boy and Girl). Children 12 and under are welcome!

Town Budget meeting taking place May 7

WILBRAHAM - How will the Town Budget affect your taxes in Wilbraham this year?

On May 7, at 7 p.m. at the Wilbraham Middle School, members of the Assessors and Finance Committee will explain to the community:

How does your vote at the Town Meeting affect the budget?

How much will my taxes increase this year?

Understanding the terminology used in the budgeting process

How your vote at Town Meeting can help prevent a 2 1/2 override

Please join us so that with the facts you, the Wilbraham citizens, can make an informed decision about our financial future.



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A full shot of the entire Minnechaug Regional High School Band ensemble playing. Photos courtesy of Lorna Lawrence

Minnechaug wins bronze in MICCA Competition

By Angelina Acevedo
Correspondent

WILBRAHAM - Hayden Carlotto, a junior at Minnechaug Regional High School, remembers MICCA band competition. She was only a freshman then.

"I was a very timid player," Carlotto said. "Chaug flutist. "I was worried that I wouldn't be as good as the upperclassmen were when I would get to be their age."

All that has changed now. On Saturday, April 5, Carlotto was one of over 100 'Chaug's ensemble that competed in the Massachusetts Instrumental and Choral Conductors Association (MICCA) competition, held at Belchertown High School. She is now a drum major and sectional leader, who helps encourage the band alongside David Morris, the Minnechaug Band director.

The recent regional competition assesses a group's tone, style, intonations and dynamics, and awards them with a medal reflecting their graded performance.

The Minnechaug band performed "Resound" by Niccole Punnio, "Irish Tune from County Derry" by Percy Granger and "Washington Post" by John Philip Sousa—three rigorous pieces that put their playing to the test. They have been working since December to perfect this performance the best they could.

MICCA is an extremely

competitive competition that band directors across the state work hard to participate in. Morris knows the challenges that come with MICCA, and adequately prepared his students for a chance to take part in this rigorous event.

While the Minnechaug Band did earn enough points to receive a bronze medal, Morris is more impressed with how the group has grown as musicians. He spoke with the band after their performance and encouraged them "to not be discouraged" with their result.

He emphasized the technicality and attention to detail it takes to perform the concert's music, and how the improvement of this group has been nothing less than phenomenal.

After the performance, the band has the opportunity to take part in a clinic, where one of the judges talks to them about what they can do to improve their playing.

During this year's clinic, the band learned techniques about posture and breath support.

"It effectively improved my support and playing," Natalie Proulx said, 11th-grade 'Chaug flutist.

Small things like these clinics help the band as a whole—and the students as individuals—create more moving concerts. The students didn't just experience a chance to improve their playing, but also a chance to be-



The Minnechaug Regional High School Band performs at MICCA. Hayden Carlotto in first row first chair, Natalie Proulx in first row second chair.



The Minnechaug Regional High School Band attending a clinic with one of the judges after performing.

come more confident in their playing abilities.

The Minnechaug Band plans to attend MICCA in 2026, going back "stronger and hungrier," Morris said.

They have their eyes on ranking higher, pushing themselves even more to be-

come better musicians and share their talents with the community. Until then, readers can see the band perform their annual POPS concert on May 7 at Minnechaug Regional High School to see this aspiring band.

Highest honor of Rotary...



WILBRAHAM – Wilbraham-Hampden Rotary Club President Peter Salerno (right) presents the Paul Harris pin, the highest honor of Rotary, to Ken Walker at the March 26 meeting at the Country Club of Wilbraham. Walker joins other notables, like Mother Teresa, Pres. Jimmy Carter and Jonas Salk, in receiving the fellowship. Photo by Charles F. Bennett



Rich Howell, shown here in a Re-enactment, will speak at the Old Meeting House Museum at 2 p.m. on Sunday, May 4. (photo submitted)

Howell to speak at Open House

WILBRAHAM – Since this is the start of 250th anniversary of the Revolutionary War and the Battles of Lexington and Concord involving patriots such as Paul Revere, John Hancock and Sam Adams, in which Minutemen from Wilbraham raced to join, who would be a better guest speaker at the first open house of the season May 4 than hometown historian Rich Howell?

When Howell speaks in the Old Meeting House Museum at 2 p.m., free and open to the public, he will have returned as a re-enactor at the celebration of the first historic engagement against British troops in the eastern part of Massachusetts. He plans to inform town residents of the various activities that he participated in.

Howell will remind folks about the outbreak of armed

conflict between Great Britain and its 13 colonies in America. And, he will remind us that "The shot heard around the world"? was first heard in Massachusetts and that soldiers from Wilbraham quickly traveled to reach the "Lexington Alarm". He will describe how in 1775, Wilbraham Selectmen gave each Minuteman a musket, powder horn and a horse and sent them on their way.

This season the Wilbraham Athenaeum Society, which operates the Museum for the town, will host all open houses in the historic building itself or outside in the garden. Refreshments will be served and the Gift Shop will be open.

For more information about the Open House see the Old Meeting House Museum's Facebook page.

Friends Quilt Raffle

WILBRAHAM – Help raise funds for the Friends of Wilbraham Seniors who raise funds for the needs of Wilbraham's senior citizens. Help us by purchasing

tickets for the raffle of a queen-size quilt made by the Wilbraham Senior Center's Quilting Group. Drawing is May 2 at the senior center. You do not have to be

there to win.

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

Hope to see you there! You can also contact friends@01095 to arrange to buy tickets.

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Mylie Mittler fields the grounder to second.



Chaug comes back to beat Monson

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

WILBRAHAM—Sophomore Abigail Camire was the starting pitcher in the first two games won by the Minnechaug Regional junior varsity softball team this spring. Camire was also the starting pitcher for the Lady Falcons j.v. squad as a freshman. She was called up to the varsity squad for the first time by head coach Molly Cole before last Friday’s home game against the Monson Lady Mustangs.

The righthander was the winning pitcher, as Minnechaug ended their four-game losing streak with a hard-fought 12-9 comeback victory on a very windy afternoon in Wilbraham.

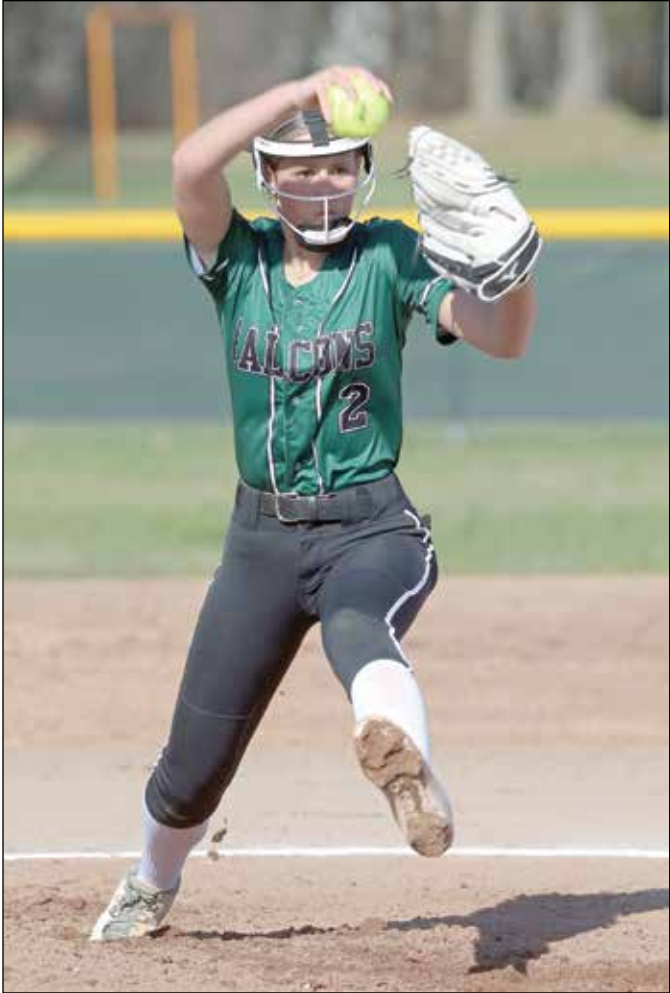
“I was called up to the varsity team for the first time, but I never expected to play in today’s game” said Camire, who started the non-league contest at first base. “It feels great to be the winning pitcher, but we worked very well as a team.”

Camire replaced senior righty Abby Peyman in the pitcher’s circle at the start of the third inning. She allowed just one run on seven hits with two strikeouts and no walks over the final five innings.

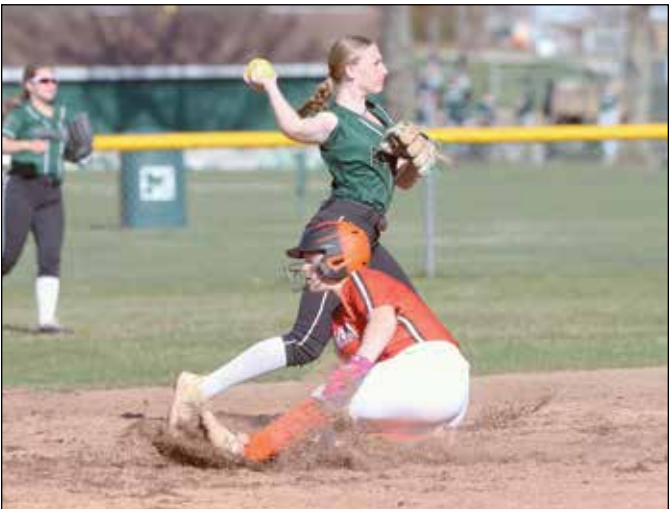
Please see **SOFTBALL**, page 12



Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com
Ava Peabody makes a catch in left.



Kaelyn Dionne winds up for a pitch home.



Veronica Ouimet catches the out at second during recent action.

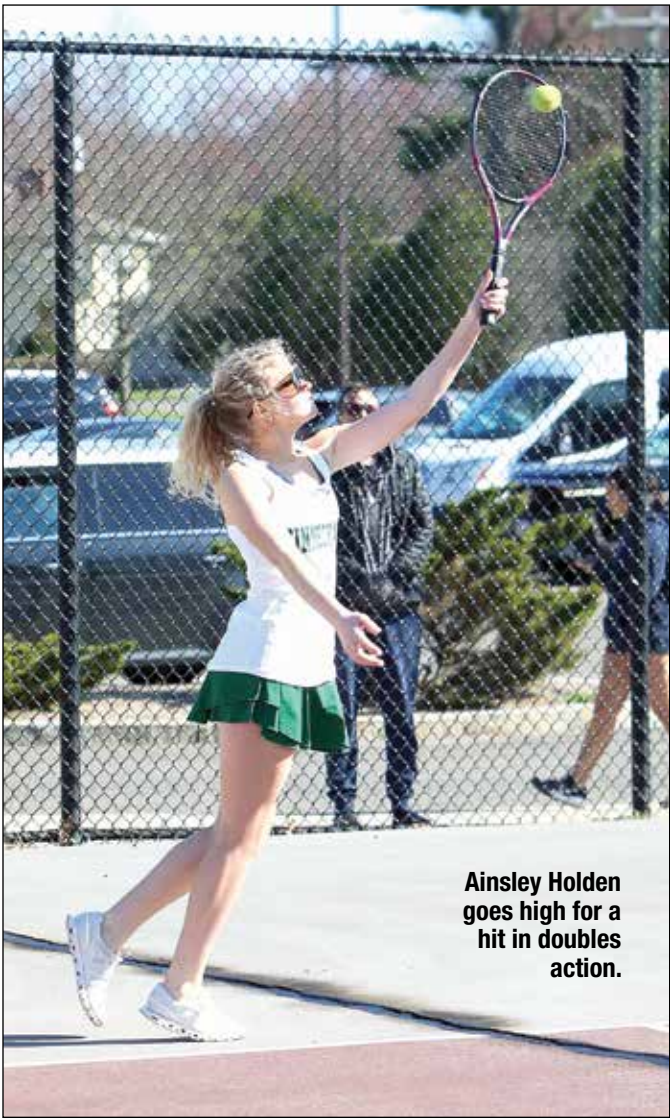


Alexa Sherman fields a throw to third.



Abby Peyman grabs an out at first.

Ludlow girls tennis defeated by Minnechaug



Ainsley Holden goes high for a hit in doubles action.



Ava Croteau grabs an underhand hit.



Ellie Gaudreau chases down the ball.



Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com
Wenxie Gao gets the easy hit.

LUDLOW – Last Thursday afternoon, Ludlow High School girls tennis lost 3-2 against Minnechaug Regional. The Lions fell to 3-2 on the season while Minnechaug fell to 3-4.

Offense breaks out for Chaug baseball

WILBRAHAM – Minnechaug Regional High School baseball improved to .500 as they scored 13 runs in five innings to defeat host Chicopee High School last Monday afternoon. In the win, Paul Diehl had two hits, an RBI, and two runs scored. Andrew Grasso helped out with three walks, and the Falcons got a combined shutout from Evan Liverseidge and Alexander Savlick. They combined for eight strikeouts and only allowed one hit. The Falcons are now 3-3 on the regular season.

T-Birds to face Bruins for first time in playoffs

SPRINGFIELD — The Springfield Thunderbirds (34-32-2-4) will begin their quest for the city's eighth Calder Cup championship on Wednesday as they face the Providence Bruins (41-23-5-3) in the First Round of the 2025 Calder Cup Playoffs. Springfield will have one home game in the Best-of-3 series on Friday, April 25 at 7:05 p.m. inside the Thunderdome. The T-Birds fell in their regular season finale, 5-0, to the Charlotte Checkers on Saturday night inside a 19th sellout crowd inside the MassMutual Center this regular season. Steve Konowalchuk's now turns its attention to the Bruins and the first-ever playoff meeting between the T-Birds and Providence. Friday's Game 2 inside the Thunderdome will be another installment of MGM Springfield Deuces Wild Friday; fans can take advantage of concession specials with \$2 domestic drafts, \$2 hot dogs, and \$2 sodas from 6 p.m. through the end of the first period. The full series schedule is as follows: • Game 1 - Thunderbirds @ Bruins, Wednesday, April 23, 7:05 p.m., Amica Mutual Pavilion • Game 2 - Bruins @ Thunderbirds, Friday, April 25, 7:05 p.m., MassMutual Center • Game 3 (if necessary)

- Thunderbirds @ Bruins, Sunday, April 27, 3:05 p.m., Amica Mutual Pavilion During the regular season, the T-Birds posted a 7-3-0-2 record against the Bruins, including wins in four of the last five meetings: The Thunderbirds were led by two of their top offensive weapons throughout the season series against Providence. Captain Matthew Peca tallied a point per game, with 12 points (4g, 8a) in 12 meetings against the Bruins. Nikita Alexandrov torched Providence for 10 points (4g, 6a) in just eight head-to-head meetings, including two goals in the final 90 seconds to stun the Bruins, 3-2, in the last matchup between the

foes on March 30. Providence has also received strong veteran leadership during the regular season meetings against Springfield, with captain Patrick Brown tallying seven points (3g, 4a) in nine games. Georgii Merkulov, one of the top distributors in the AHL this season, posted a team-high nine points (1g, 8a) in 11 head-to-head matchups. In the offensive end of the rink, the T-Birds have been one of the few AHL teams to experience success against AHL First All-Star netminder Michael DiPietro of the Bruins. Springfield handed DiPietro four defeats in his six games against the T-Birds and kept the Eastern Conference leader in save percentage to a .908 mark in that category in head-to-head meetings. This series marks the first time the T-Birds and Bruins have met in the Calder Cup Playoffs and the fifth time the cities have duked it out in the postseason. Springfield won each of the first three series against Providence, while the Bruins exacted payback with a five-game series win in the Division Semifinals in 2014. If the Thunderbirds defeat the Bruins in the best-of-3 series, they would meet the two-time defending Calder Cup champion Hershey Bears in the Atlantic Division Semifinals.

Railers fall in season finale against the Reading Royals

READING, PA – The Worcester Railers HC (34-30-3-5 76pts) lost to the Reading Royals (33-28-9-2, 77pts), on Saturday, April 12, by a final score of 7-3 in front of a crowd of 5,522 at the Santander Arena. Reading scored the first two goals of the game in the first period. It started with Matt Brown (2-3-5) and Logan Britt (1-0-1) who gave Reading the 2-0 lead going into the second period. Sam Sedley (2-0-2) pushed the Reading lead to 3-0 with his

power play goal 2:25 into the second period. Just under three minutes later the Railers would get their first score of the night off the stick of Matias Rajaniemi (1-0-1). Reading capped the second period off with a goal from Mason Primeau (1-1-2) making it a 4-1 game with 20 minutes to go. The Railers got the third period scoring started as Riley Piercey (1-0-1) scored to bring Worcester within two goals. Reading answered right back as Matt Brown scored his second goal of the

night to make it a 5-2 Reading lead. Reading would finish the scoring off with two empty net goals coming from Jake Smith (1-1-2) and Sam Sedley making it a 7-3 final score. Reading did all the scoring in the first period as they jumped out to a 2-0 first period lead. The first Royals goal came on the power play from Matt Brown (18th) on a scrum in front of the net. Logan Britt (3rd) then scored 17:01 into the first period on the rush, finishing off a three-man chase for Reading. The

Railers closed out the final 54 seconds of the first period on the power play but were unable to cash in leaving them with a little over a minute of power play time to start the second period. Shots favored Reading 13-9 in the first. After killing the remainder of the Worcester power play, Reading extended their lead to 3-0 early in the second period with their second power play goal of the night. It was Sam Sedley (7th) who scored the Reading goal. The Railers would go on to score

their first goal of the night from Matias Rajaniemi (5th) who got Worcester on the board 5:24 into the second. He took a shot from the slot that went top shelf. Reading finished off the second period scoring with a goal from Mason Primeau (13th) making it a 4-1 game heading into the final frame. Shots favored Worcester 14-9 in the second. The Railers brought this one within two 6:17 into the third period. It was Riley Piercey (10th) who scored Worcester's second of the

night. The Royals did not hesitate to get back up by three as Matt Brown (19th) scored his second of the night giving Reading the 5-2 lead. The Railers brought the game back within two as Anthony Callin (24th) scored on the power play. Reading would go on the score twice on the Worcester empty net coming from Jake Smith (16th) and Sam Sedley (8th) leading to a final score of 7-3. Shots favored Worcester 13-10 in the third and 36-32 in regulation.

Lineup shaping up for NAPA Spring Sizzler at Stafford Speedway

STAFFORD SPRINGS, CT – The NAPA Spring Sizzler® takes the green flag on Sunday April 27th, less than two weeks away. The entry list for now stands at 37 cars strong for “The Greatest Race in the History of Spring”, and it is a top-notch field of cars that includes 8 former Stafford track champions and 3 former NAPA Spring Sizzler® race winners. Track champions that have submitted an entry for the 53rd Annual NAPA Spring Sizzler® include Tyler Barry, Cory DiMatteo, Matt Galko, Teddy Hodgdon, Stephen Kopcik, Woody Pitkat, Marcello Rufrano, and Ronnie Williams. The 3 former winners that will be looking to take home another Sizzler® trophy include Matt Hirschman, Pitkat, and Ron Silk. Below we take a quick look at each driver who has entered the NAPA Spring Sizzler® and their highlights from racing at Stafford and in the NAPA Spring Sizzler®. Michael Christopher, Jr. – #00 Jimmy Paige Plumbing & Heating Troyer – 17 career SK Modified feature wins; 2 open Modified wins, won the Casella Waste 80 last season driving the #00 car; 2 Legend Cars feature wins; 2 top-10 finishes in 3 career NAPA Spring Sizzler® starts Nick Halkowicz – #08 Halkowicz Plumbing & Drain Cleaning LFR – Finished 24th in 2024 NAPA Spring Sizzler® Stephen Kopcik – #1

Newtown Pools LFR – 17 career feature wins at Stafford (14 SK Modified®, 3 SK Light); 2015 SK Light track champion; 2 top-10 finishes in 3 career NAPA Spring Sizzler® starts Jeff Malave – #3 Soundwood Builders Troyer – 7 career SK Modified® feature wins, finished 24th in only NAPA Spring Sizzler® start in 2004 Matt Galko – #3 AAA Consulting, LLC. Troyer – 10 career feature wins (8 SK Light, 2 SK Modified®); 2-time SK Light track champion (*10, *11); 1 top-10 in 4 career NAPA Spring Sizzler® starts Jacob Perry – #4 Matlach Racing LFR – finished 12th in only NAPA Spring Sizzler® start last season Chris Pasteryak – #5 Dawley's Custom & Collision Troyer – 3 career feature wins (2 MRS, 1 Legend Cars); 1 top-5, 2 top-10 finishes in 8 career NAPA Spring Sizzler® starts John-Michael Shenette – #8 Eighty Two Services LFR – Attempting to make NAPA Spring Sizzler® debut Tyler Barry – #8ny West Wind Tree Farm Spafco – 3 career SK Light feature wins; 2022 SK Light track champion; Attempting to make NAPA Spring Sizzler® debut Woody Pitkat – #8 Gunsmoke Stables Chassis Pro / KCC – 84 career Stafford Feature Wins (30 SK Modified®, 40 Late Model, 3

DARE/Street Stock, 7 Open Modified, 2 MRS, 2 Mod Tour); 3-time track champion (*06, *12 Late Model, *13 SK Modified®); 1 win (2015), 4 top-5, 7 top-10 finishes in 15 career NAPA Spring Sizzler® starts Nick Anglace – #10 Anglace Racing Enterprises Troyer – 2 career SK Light feature wins; finished 18th in 2023 NAPA Spring Sizzler® Cory DiMatteo – #11 Hummel Brothers Hot Dogs Raceworks – 19 Career Stafford Feature Wins (7 Legend Cars, 8 SK Modified®, 4 SK Light); 2017 SK Light Track Champion; Finished 21st in 2024 NAPA Spring Sizzler® Max Zachem – #13 USNE Power Troyer – 1 top-5, 2 top-10 finishes in 5 career NAPA Spring Sizzler® starts Jake Lutz – #14 Advantage Trucks LFR – Attempting to make NAPA Spring Sizzler® debut Jake Johnson – #15 Lin's Propane Trucks Fury – Finished 30th in 2023 NAPA Spring Sizzler® Ron Silk – #16 Blue Mountain Machine / Future Homes Fury – 2-time defending NAPA Spring Sizzler® winner, 2 wins, 6 top-5, 9 top-10 finishes in 17 career NAPA Spring Sizzler® starts; 11 career Stafford feature wins (4 SK Modified®, 3 Mod Tour, 1 Monaco Modified Tri-Track Series, 3 Open Modified) Danny Knoll, Jr. – #17 Towbook LFR – Attempting to make NAPA Spring

Sizzler® debut; qualified 29th for 2024 NAPA Spring Sizzler® but did not start race Dana DiMatteo – #20 USNE Power Troyer – 8 career Legend Cars feature wins; 2014 Legend Cars track champion, Attempting to make NAPA Spring Sizzler® debut Mikey Flynn – #24 Place Motors Troyer – 3 career feature wins (1 SK Modified®, 2 Legend Cars); Finished 31st in only NAPA Spring Sizzler® start in 2022 Brian Robie – #25nh Robie Motorsports Troyer – Finished 19th in only NAPA Spring Sizzler® Career Start in 2019 Buddy Charette – #28 Cape Towing & Salvage / C & C Pools TFR – Finished 18th, 25th, and 11th in 3 career NAPA Spring Sizzler® starts Tyler Rypkema – #32 USNE Power / Northeast Drilling Fury – Finished 23rd and 24th in 2 Dave Sapienza – #36 Long Island Cancer & Blood Troyer – 1 top-10 finish in 6 career NAPA Spring Sizzler® starts Marcello Rufrano – #48 Wheelers Auto Service Troyer – 19 Career Stafford Feature Wins (5 SK Modified®, 11 SK Light, 2 Street Stock, 1 Open Modified); 2018 SK Light Track Champion; Finished 29th in 2022, 2023, & 2024 NAPA Spring Sizzlers® Ronnie Williams – #50 Empower Financial Advisory Troyer – 29 career feature

wins (22 SK Modified®, 4 SK Light, 3 Open Modified); 2-time SK Modified® track champion (*18, *19); 1 top-5, 2 top-10 finishes in 5 career NAPA Spring Sizzler® starts Joey Cipriano – #51ct Fueled Up Motorsports Fury – 8 career feature wins (7 SK Light, 1 SK Modified®); Finished 32nd in only NAPA Spring Sizzler® start in 2019 Teddy Hodgdon – #55ct Montanari Fuel / Business Time Motorsports Fury – 11 career feature wins (6 SK Light, 5 Legend Cars); 2019 SK Light track champion; Finishes of 16th, 16th, and 23rd in 3 career NAPA Spring Sizzler® starts Trevor Catalano – #55x Glastonbury Cleaning Troyer – Attempting to make NAPA Spring Sizzler® debut Eric Goodale – #58 GAF Roofing Fury – 3 career feature wins (2 Open Modified, 1 WMT); 5 top-5, 6 top-10 finishes in 15 career NAPA Spring Sizzler® starts Matt Hirschman – #60 William J. Ross, Inc. Troyer – 2022 NAPA Spring Sizzler® winner; 3 career open modified feature wins; 1 win, 2 top-5, 6 top-10 finishes in 8 career NAPA Spring Sizzler® starts Timmy Solomito – #66 USNE Power LFR – 2 top-5, 5 top-10 finishes in 7 career NAPA Spring Sizzler® starts David Arute – #75 Monaco Ford Chassis Pro – 20 career feature wins (7 SK Modified®, 2 SK Light, 11 Limited

Late Model); finished 21st in 2023 NAPA Spring Sizzler® and 14th in 2024 NAPA Spring Sizzler® Brett Meservey – #76 One Thirty Seven Gas Inc. Troyer – Attempting to make NAPA Spring Sizzler® debut; has finishes of 10th, 13th, and 17th twice in 4 career Stafford starts William Lambros – #77 William Dean Platinum PSR – Attempting to make NAPA Spring Sizzler® debut Jon McKennedy – #79 Christopher's Towing Fury – 4 career feature wins (2 MRS, 2 MTS); 1 top-5, 5 top-10 finishes in 5 career NAPA Spring Sizzler® starts Anthony Nocella – #92 Nocella Paving Raceworks – Best finish of 18th in 5 career NAPA Spring Sizzler® starts Austin Beers – #179 Avenue Auto Troyer – Finished 26th in 2024 NAPA Spring Sizzler® The 53rd Annual NAPA Spring Sizzler® is set for April 26-27 and will kick off the 2025 season of racing at Stafford Speedway. The NAPA Spring Sizzler® begins on Saturday, April 26, with feature events for the Late Model, Limited Late Model, and Street Stock divisions, along with SK Light qualifying duel races that will set the field for an extra-distance 30-lap feature event on Sunday, April 27.

SOFTBALL from page 11

“Abigail did a great job pitching in her first varsity game,” Cole said. “She has been pitching very well for the j.v. team and she was ready to pitch for us in today’s game.” The Lady Falcons (2-4), who posted a 10-4 win over the Lady Mustangs a year ago, hadn’t celebrated a victory this season since they defeated Ludlow, 12-6 at home in the season opener. They were shutout, 21-0, in a non-league road loss to Tantasqua Regional twenty four hours earlier. The Lady Mustangs (5-4) have gone 1-4 since starting

the regular season with four consecutive victories. “I didn’t think we did anything well in today’s game,” said first-year Monson varsity coach Matt Hull. “We scored five runs in our first at bats, but we gave it up very quickly. It wasn’t our best effort of the season and I’m very disappointed.” The Lady Mustangs scored five runs in the top of the first inning before the first out had been recorded. Senior shortstop Natalie Hull led off with a single into left field. Her younger sister, Chelsea, who’s a sophomore, then hit a two-run homer over the right field fence. Chelsea Hull, who started the game at second base, had

five of the Lady Mustangs 16 base hits. Following back-to-back singles by senior starting pitcher Molly Szado and senior centerfielder Ella Corthell, freshman catcher Maya Summers delivered an RBI single into center field giving the visiting team a 3-0 lead. Corthell crossed the plate following a field error by the shortstop and a groundball out by freshman first baseman Madelynn Caron brought home the fifth run. It didn’t take the Lady Falcons very long to tie the score. After loading the bases, senior right fielder Ava Peabody drew a walk bringing home the first run. Two more

runs crossed the plate when junior third baseman Alexa Sherman (3-for-4) singled to center. Peabody and Sherman both scored on wild pitches. The Lady Mustangs, who took advantage of several errors by the Lady Falcons, scored three more times in the top of the second inning. Chelsea Hull and freshman left fielder Cali Zielinski (3-for-4) contributed with RBI singles while Summers drove home another run with a sacrifice fly. While the Lady Mustangs scored eight runs on nine hits during the first two innings, their supporters didn’t have very much to cheer about once Camire took over in the pitcher’s circle.

The Lady Falcons, who banded out a total of 12 hits, closed the gap to 8-7 following a two-run single by freshman shortstop Mylie Mittler with two-outs in the bottom of the fourth inning. Minnechaug took the lead at 9-8 with one-out in the fifth when a ground ball hit by freshman designated player Julianna Mooney was misplayed for an error by the second baseman allowing two runs to score. Monson, who are the only Division 5 team in the Valley Wheel League, did get a little help from Minnechaug defense to tie the score in the top of the sixth inning. The Lady Falcons loaded the bases in the bottom half

of the frame before Peabody drove home the go-ahead run with an infield hit. Sherman also had a run scoring infield hit. Sophomore center fielder Veronica Ouimet, who was intentionally walked, scored on a wild pitch giving the Lady Falcons a 12-9 advantage. Chelsea Hull, who took over for Szado in the sixth inning, singled with two outs in the seventh inning before Camire retired the next batter on a pop-up to Mittler ending the ballgame. Monson is scheduled to host Minnechaug at 1pm on May 3.

Events & announcements schedule

HPL hosting Earth Day Eco Expo

HAMPDEN – The Hampden Public Library is hosting our annual Earth Day Eco Expo on Saturday, April 26 from Noon to 3 p.m.

The Mass Audubon will be there with their ambassador Pita the turtle, Cloverbrook Farm will have baby goats to pet and our local chicken shepherdess, Kim Converse, will be there with her famous chicken, “Chick Chick”.

This event features useful recycling and gardening tips, educational games and activities. There will be a lot of eco-friendly give-a-ways to help your whole family live more sustainably. You can learn to sew a cloth bag and check out our solar oven and solar generator. Something for everyone! This is your chance 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!

Ten Hampden departments and committees, and over twenty local artisans, local businesses and local farms will be there to sell their products, so stop by and check it out. This is a wonderful community event that gets bigger each year. Let's support local and go green!

Healthy Kids Day at the Scantic Valley YMCA free and open to the public

WILBRAHAM - The YMCA sets kids up for a safe, healthy and

fun summer at Healthy Kids Day! This annual event features a day of fun-filled activities to celebrate kids being kids.

The Scantic Valley Y is hosting the Y's annual Healthy Kids Day® on Saturday, April 26 from 10 a.m. to Noon located at 45 Post Office Park in Wilbraham. This free event features a variety of family-friendly activities to encourage healthy kids, healthy families, and a healthy start to the summer season.

“It is so important for kids to stay active over the summer, both physically and mentally,” said Deb Kelder, Executive Director at the Scantic Valley Y. “At the Y, we believe in providing resources to families to ensure that their children have access to what they need to reach their full potential, no matter the time of year. Healthy Kids Day is a fun, free community-wide event that encourages families to take advantage of all the great summer resources that the Y, and other local, like-minded organizations, has to offer.”

Healthy Kids Day at the Scantic Valley Y is sponsored by Country Bank. For more information, contact the Y at 413.596.2749.

Annual Walk, Run, Remember for Rick's Place April 26

WILBRAHAM - The Annual Walk, Run, Remember for Rick's Place, a 51.5M/5K event, will be held, rain or shine, on Saturday, April 26 at Minnechaug Regional High School in Wilbraham.

The race will begin at 9 a.m. Please register by April 11 to receive a t-shirt. \$30 for adults and \$15 ages

17 and under: Annual Walk, Run, Remember for Rick's Place

If your business is interested in sponsoring this event, please reach out to us at 413-279-2010 or send an email to: info@ricksplacema.org

Established in memory of Rick Thorpe, who died in Tower Two of the World Trade Center on 9/11, Rick's Place opened in 2007 and provides free grief support to youth (ages 5-18) and their families throughout the Pioneer Valley and Northern CT.

Hampden Parks & Recreation Department announces spring programs and registration deadlines

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

- Current Programs:**
- Wildlife Programming at Laughing Brook
Registration: Ongoing
 - Connect with nature through engaging wildlife programs at Laughing Brook. Learn about local wildlife species, their habitats, and the environment. Programs are designed for all ages and offer opportunities for outdoor learning in a fun, interactive way.

- Healthy Kids Running
Registration: Ongoing
- Encourage kids to get moving with the Healthy Kids Running program! This initiative promotes physical activity and healthy habits while helping young runners build confidence and improve their fitness. Registration is open for participants of all skill levels.

- Upcoming Programs:**
- Little Laxers Lacrosse
Registration: April 1 - April 30
 - Get ready for a fun and fast-paced introduction to the sport of lacrosse! This program is designed for younger children who are interested in learning the basics of lacrosse through skill-building drills and friendly games. Don't miss out—registration opens soon!

- Hampden Memorial Park Summer Program Activity 2025
Registration Opens: Mar 10
- Make your summer memorable with activities and events at Hampden Memorial Park. The summer program will offer a variety of fun outdoor experiences, and registration details will be available soon!

- Closing Soon:**
- Recreation Baseball Grades K-8 - 2025
 - Still seeking players for grades (3-4) and (5-6)
 - Time is running out to sign up for the 2025 Recreation Baseball season! If you have a child in grades 3-4 or 5-6, there are still spots available. Don't miss the opportunity to be part of a fun, competitive baseball league!
 - Don't miss out! Register today to secure your place in these incredible programs and enjoy a spring full of learning, fun, and physical activity.
 - For more information and to register visit: <https://hampdenma.myrec.com>.

Reading with Tucker at HPL

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

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

The upcoming date is April 29.

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

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

Register to vote

WILBRAHAM - Wilbraham residents who are not registered voters, who wish to vote in the upcoming Town Meeting on Monday, May 12, 2025 and Town Election on Saturday, May 17, 2025 must register to vote by 5 p.m. on Friday, May 2, 2025.

Registration hours are daily 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

On Tuesday, May 2, 2025, the last day to register, we will be open from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Voter registrations can also be dropped in our drop box located behind Town Hall, 240 Springfield St., or can be done online at registertovotema.com.

Vote by mail applications are available. Please contact the Wilbraham Town Clerk's Office if you have any questions at 596-2800, ext 200.

Garden Club Meeting May 15

HAMPDEN – The May meeting of the Hampden Garden Club is at Academy Hall, Main St at 7 p.m. on May 15.

Program presented by Bonnie Power on “Good Bugs/Bad Bugs.” This presentation describes some of the common beneficial & pest insects that gardeners encounter in New England.

Memorial Day Plant Sale

HAMPDEN – The Hampden Garden Club's Memorial Day Plant Sale will be taking place on May 26 from 8 a.m. to Noon at Academy Hall, Main Street, in Hampden, rain or shine.

Stop by and check out the plants!

VFW Post 9397 hosting Steamers

HAMPDEN – VFW Post 9397 will be hosting Steamers beginning on May 16 at 5 p.m. until sold out.

The menu is steamers, clam chowder, clam strips, chicken tenders, French fries and onion rings. The price is market dependent.

First come, first serve with limited supply.

Spring Fundraiser Workshop

HAMPDEN – Come join on May 16, 2025 from 6 to 8 p.m. for a program of working with polymer clay to create a unique—everyone will be different—pendant.

Class will be conducted by artist Nan Hurlburt. \$25 includes class and supplies.

All ages are welcome.

Call the Hampden Senior Center at 413-566-5588 for more information. Proceeds of this event will benefit the programs offered at the senior center.

Exit 7 presents ‘SpongeBob: The Musical’

LUDLOW – The Exit 7 Players will be presenting “SpongeBob: The Musical” on April 25 through May 11.

The show is directed by Adam Malmberg, with music directed by Elizabeth Monte and choreographed by Marybeth Mizula Vargas.

The show takes place at the Exit 7 Theater on 37 Chestnut St. in Ludlow.

For tickets, visit [exit7players.org](http://7players.org) or call 413-583-4301.

This Week in Rec

Wilbraham Baseball Committee

WILBRAHAM - Well, beat the drum and hold the phone, Opening Day is near! We're born again; there's new grass on Farrell Field. Rounding third and headed for home, it's our youth baseball program. Anyone can understand the way we feel! The 2025 Wilbraham/Hampden Falcons Youth Baseball season is now underway. Tee-ball and coach-pitch/Pinto players, grab your beat-up glove, homemade bat, and a brand-new pair of shoes and join the Minnechaug Varsity baseball team for a fun clinic during our Opening Day celebration on April 26 at Spec Pond! Players and teams from all age groups are welcomed to attend the Opening Day parade and celebration starting at 9:30 a.m., as it's time to give this game a ride. Just hit the ball and touch them all, we will have skills competitions and games that afternoon as well! A couple of moments in the sun, we have our pitchers and catchers clinics in April/May, and our organization's WooSox game night is June 7, so save the date. We have over 270 amazing players in our program this year, so put them in coach, they're ready to play, today!

Run for Rice's 5K Road Race set for June 7

WILBRAHAM - The 13th annual “Run for Rice's 5K Road Race” will be held on Saturday, June 7, 2025 at 9 a.m.

This popular, family-friendly 5K road race begins at Christ the King – Epiphany Church, 758 Main Street, Wilbraham, MA, and winds through a flat, fast course in surrounding neighborhoods, ending at Rice

Fruit Farm across the street from the start. Pre-registration fee for runners and walkers is \$20, while day-of-race registration is \$25.

Ages 18 and under registration is \$15 including day-of registration.

The first 150 registered runners by May 13, 2023 will receive our famous race t-shirt featuring the “Running Apple” logo, and all

registered runners will receive a free Rice Fruit Farm ice cream with their bib number on day of race only. Cash prizes will be awarded in several categories, and all proceeds benefit the Minnechaug Land Trust.

Race day registration will be open from 7:30 a.m. until 8:45 a.m. Online registration is available at RunSignUp.com.

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CLUES ACROSS 1. English TV station 4. It fuels cars 7. Where ships dock (abbr.) 10. Indigenous people of Thailand 11. Midway between northeast and east 12. Small Milky Way constellation 13. Fritz __, Austrian chemist 15. A Brit's grandmother 16. Colombian city 19. Visualize 21. Charged 23. People's assets 24. Informative books 25. Jeer 26. You can do it with your horn 27. Agents of your downfall 30. Central Uganda city	CLUES DOWN 1. Sheep sound 2. Some can be emotional 3. Inflammation of colon lining 4. Origins 5. Comedienne Gasteyer 6. Perceived by the senses 7. A place to play ball 8. Occur before 9. Animal body parts 13. Thanksgiving dessert 14. Root mean square (abbr.) 17. 1960s teen idol Bobby 18. Promotional materials 20. One point east of northeast 22. Piers Anthony protagonist 27. Popular sports league 28. Cologne	CLUES DOWN 29. Partner to cheese 31. Constrictor snake 32. Not good 33. Supplement with difficulty 37. Hug with fondness 38. Enforced again 39. Small amount of time (abbr.) 40. Substance 41. Anterior parts of the brain 42. Brews 43. Where ships load cargo 44. Holiday season singer 47. “__ humbug!” 48. Monetary unit of Macao 49. Popular children's book elephant 51. Glutinous 52. Function 53. Old world, new 58. Swiss river
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Fast, dependable service. Free estimates. Fully insured. Call Joe Sablack 413-436-9821, Cell 413-537-7994

SERVICES

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TUTORING: Literacy, all ages. Math K-8, online, your home or library. Call 978-799-9096. pete-don151@live.com

STUMP GRINDING

DL & G STUMP GRINDING

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

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

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SAW Stump Grinding

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413-213-5470

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CASH FOR JUNK AND REPAIRABLE CARS

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

REAL ESTATE

FOR RENT

EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY

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

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APPLICATIONS NOW BEING ACCEPTED FOR ONE, TWO AND THREE BEDROOM APARTMENTS

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•Extra Storage
•24 Hour Maintenance

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17 Convent Hill, Ware, MA

EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY

FOR RENT

Equal Housing Opportunity

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

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

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MAIL TO: Classifieds, 24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069

DEADLINES: FRIDAY AT NOON

or call: 413-283-8393

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

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

Town: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

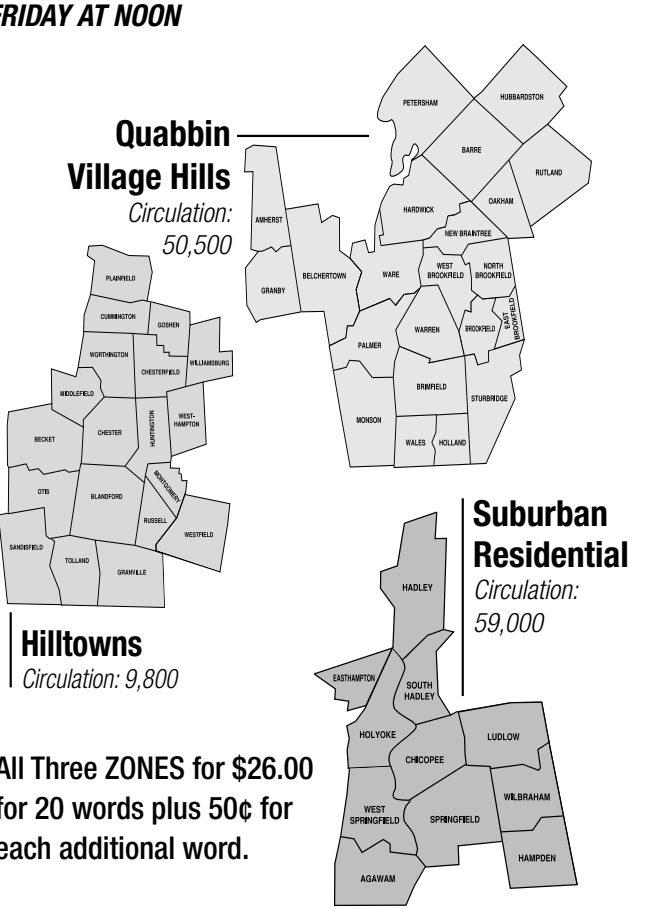
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Minnechaug Regional High School Honor Roll

WILBRAHAM – Minnechaug Regional High School recently named the third term Honor and High Honor Roll.

Grade 9 Honors: Jewel- yanie Andino, Owen Antaya, Tommy Appleby, Addison Baldyga, Cole Balog, Aidan Bean, Bryce Beckel, Hunter Buckert, Nicholas Capen, Annalectia Carlo, Maximus Cayo, Bartosz Checiek, Joseph Comes, Leah Croteau, Masen Cruz, Nathaniel David, Anna Dennis, Kaelyn Dionne, Ryan Donovan, Ava Eggsware, Caroline Euber, Lucas Ferreira, Emmy Foisy, Chase Folli, Devon Fortenberry, Colin Foulis, Gavin French, Gianna Fusco, Jackson Gagner, Corrine Gates, Brennan Gliesman, Eliza Gloss, Hayden Gloss, Mallory Grono, Daniel Heinold, Demetrius Holmes, Mason Howard, Brielle Hunter, Releana Jackson, Drew Jennings, Kelsey Jennings, Tia Kayrouz, June Keeler, David Kim, Emma King, Isabella Kupis, Brayden Lane, William Lapalm, Landon Laskiewicz, Jacob Luttrell, Evan Marques, Olivia Maserati, Isadora Maurice, Clare McMahon, Ellie McRobbie, Mylie Mittler, Juliana Mooney, Caleb Moreno, Frank Morin, Tess Morrow, Ryan Mullen, Nicholas Nordstrom, Gianna Nowicki, Kilian Nutting, Liam O’Brien, Sophia O’Connor, Youngsoun Oh, Patrick O’Toole, Kirk Pagoaga, Joshua Pardave, Ava Peck, Owen Petit, AVerie Picard, Kendall Placzek, Domenic Roach, Jillian Rumprik, Marcus Scarfe, Hailey Scliopou, Alysandra Serju, Tanvi Sharma, Demetri Smith, Gabriel Solowinski, Mya Suarez, Joseph Sullivan, Michael Sullivan, Elliot Sylvester, William Szpakowski, Jillian True, Amelia Tucker, Camren Valle, Ormandy Velazquez, Juliana Washington, Calvin Webster, Adelle Williams, Layla Williams, Olivia Zheng

Grade 9 High Honors: Rama Awkal, Kayden Bain-Purdy, Taylor Bartosz, Thomas Chitiva Ortiz, Irelyn Coffey, Nora Fletcher, Mario Garcia, Nicholas Gencarelli, Gavin Goldrick, Ashley Griguoli, Madison Guertin, Danika

Haygood, Emilia Imbriglio, Brooke Johnson, Peyton Lee, Savannah Lee, Adriana Lopez, Yman Ly, Dominic Mascaro, Elijah Mathias, Daizy McDonald, Marabella Melluzzo, Wilhem Morales Casillas, Dylan Niznik, Tristan Oliveira, Madeline Pastore, Benjamin Patterson, Noah Ramos, Brenan Rost, Ava Secor, Riley Senecal, Zachary Senecal, Lillian Sergienko, Sofia Shores, Grayson Tanguay, Anna Taylor, James Wadzinski, Joseph Woytowicz

Grade 10 Honors: Nathan Bosworth, Adrianna Brandoli, Darby Burgmyer, Abigail Camire, Samantha Catellier, Eli Childers, Ivy Christensen, Annabella Cianflone, Cameron Colon, Kiera Connors, Elijah Corbin, Gavin Coughlin, Addison Derosia, Tucker Derosia, Catherine Dickson, Barba Dos Santos Costa, Darren Duah, Angelina Dunn, Elizabeth Espinal, Isabella Esteves, Brielle Foisy, Carter Fortin, Alyssa Fortune, Ella Gagliarducci, Nicholas Garib, Olivia Gencarelli, Kaden Gralia, Gavin Grimley, Ryan Haber, Richard Hale, Liam Harrigan, Anne Hicklen, Paige Holt, Madelyn Hoskinson, Lily Houle, Kalhan Kar, Ava Keegan, Lowell Key, Gabriel Kishinevski, Sophia Kozub, Isabella Lafield, Drew Lang, Teagan Lawor, Hana Le, Celayna Ledvina, Leah Lomascolo, Caelan Luszc, Nola Malmborg, Avery Marceau, Olivia Martowska, Cameron Maziarz, Liam Metzger, Molly Michels, Mason Mish, Jameson Murray, Athena Nguyen, Jasper O’Connor, Shiv Patel, Natalie Petit, Anthony Powers, Jaison Richard, Patrick Roach, Lauren Roberts, Karolina Robles-Maurer, Emanuel Roman, Brooklyn Rosas, Madelyn Sackrider, Yara Saleh, Quinn Salerno, Adelyn Scarfe, Moira Shannon, Joshua Sheehan, Savannah Sheerin, Gracie Smith, Alison Souza, Andrew Stark, Benjamin Stebbins, Cole Stone, Kaleb Sweetman, Logan Thomas, Grace Trombly, Dezire Trottier Tropea, Isabella Usher, Luis Vega, Ariella Velez, Sarah Rose Walsh, Alaina Warren, Azary Wheel-

er Montanez, Jack Zeller

Grade 10 High Honors: Isaac Abergel, Gana Abuata, Lilianna Bennett, Angelina Bontempi, Philip Castellano, O’Brien Chen, Katie DeGray, Ava Disa, Jonathan Dyer, Nehir Elcin, Marion Fil, Brooke Germain, Naomi Griffin, Eliana Gunn, Lucy Haile, Caitlin Hebert, Kadence Illig, Amelia Kellogg, Isabella Kirton, Abigail Lee, Molly Lynch, Reese Magee, Liam Maher, Caroline Maloni, Chelsea Ortega, Riddhi Patel, Ainsley Patterson, Samuel Przybyl, Collin Purcell, Sydney Rocha, Jack Rumprik, Makenna Sacco, Cameron Salvador, Ava Scatolini, Sophia Sundheim, Tyler Supczak, Connor Tillberry, Faith Trombly, Brayden Tugie, Drew Weinberg, Thomas Wurm

Grade 11 Honors: Angelina Acevedo, Lucas Akers, Adam Arce, Ali Awkal, Daniela Baez, Emma Balog, Maxwell Baroni, Donovan Belton, Gabriella Bermudez, Alec Boilard, Mia Bolduc, Isabella Boudreau, Bella Brault, Lila Britton, Luke Bruno, Eclipse Buckert, Kennedy Burgmyer, Trinity Burgmyer, Isabella Carlin, Hayden Carlotto, Daryn Chapman, Desyree Charles, Irene Chen, Nicholas Cianflone, Natalia Clarke, Avery Coburn, Steven Cocchi, Caleb Conboy, Thomas Cormier, Kelly Cronin, Ava Croteau, Alexander Dario, Maliha Daubon, Hannah Donovan, Madeline Dos Santos, Samuel Eaton, Gabriella Eggsware, Landyn Eldridge, Cody Erskine, Jacob Fahey, Domenic Fantone, Dominic Fiorentino, Noemi Fraga, Lucas Fyntrilakis, Yong Ming Gao, Anthony Garib, Ryan Giombetti, Madyson Giroux, Carina Gonnello, Kyle Gralia, Andrew Grasso, Izabella Gusev, Colin Haines, Brody Harrison, Syed Hashmi, Chase Henderson, Zeirra Hernandez, Enzo Hrycak, Laya Ibrahim, Tyler Jaslanek, Lana Johnson, John Kavanagh, Ava Kearney, Kathryn Kennedy, Molly Kinsman, Zachariah Kozub, Samuel Laird, Benjamin Latourelle, Savannah Loubier, Christian Lowe, Jack Lucarelle, Avery Lucas, Ava

Luszc, Kai Ly, Nylie Maldonado, Ava Manning, Austin Marques, Michael Mazzaferro, Nolah McConnell, Madeline McDonald, Daniella Moraru, Hao-nam Nguyen, Alexandra Nichols, Cambria Norval, Stephen Nowicki, Cailin O’Brien, Luke O’Connor, Michael O’Connor, Cora Pace, Zachary Parent, Nico Penna, Sarah Perkins, Zoe Pinnock, David Preston, Natalie Proulx, Kameah Pryce, Hannah Przechocki, Chloe Robins, Maisen Rosado, Annabella Rostek, Emma Rostek, Gwyndolyn Roszko, Lauren Rucki, Mostaffa Saleh, Alexander Savlick, Nina Semanie, Alexa Sherman, Cayden Silva, Mike Silva, Aubrey Stachowicz, Jonathan Stephen, Jediah Stewart, Lincoln Stiles, Isabella Strand, Liliana Sullivan, Owen Sullivan, Ava Thompson, Dylan Walker, Journey Waters-Brown, Nathan Wesloski, Aiden Whitaker, Celena Williams, Alexander Wright

Grade 11 High Honors: Victoria Ambrose, Ian Angelica, Callan Blanchard, Alyssa Capen, Lilianna Catellier, Anthony Cianflone, Jonathan Correa, Allison Demetri, Aidan Dzierwinski, Miles Fergus, Margaret Fulton, Mateo Garcia, Giselle Harris, Laila Hosnander, Maeghan Joyce, Brady Laliberte, Aidan Lee, Hannah Luff, Jaymiel Martinez, Riley McLeod, Sean McSwain, Alyssa Mitchell, Jacob Moore, Ava Moretti, Alina Narvaez, Lyric Nelson, Alyssa Nogueira, Anna O’Toole, Alexander Parent, Mia Peck, Katelynn Pronovost, William Quinn, Aezlin Rost, Dylan Secor, Connor Seymour, Colin Sheehan, Linda Stanco, Yazmin Tafolla-Chapin, Gabriel Talaia, Ella Trosky, Elijah Webster, Elizabeth Woytowicz, Nicholas Zayas

Grade 12 Honors: Alexsa Abeid, Hannah Alves, Je- vaughn Archer, Kyle Atkin, Arash Balwa, William Bao, Lilliana Barkyoub, Bryce Barlow, Mackenzie Barlow, Cayla Bartosz, Bryan Beckel, Mason Belcamino, Hunter Bennett, Nicholas Benninger, John Bermudez, Sadie Blair,

Joseph Bonavita, Evan Bowl- er, Noah Brathwaite, Jeremiah Campbell, Margaret Capuano, Noah Caress, Logan Conboy, Jack Cormier, Julia Crooks, Benjamin Daniels, Jason DeGray, Elizabeth Dickson, Lucie Dones, Lukas Dzierz- gowski, Maxyne Evon, Sam- uel Ey, Grace Fallon, Amanda Fenyes, Nicholas Fopp, Aaron Foy, Molly Gallagher, Wen Xi Gao, Kendall Gates, Noelle Giombetti, Alexander Gorm- ley, Renee Goulet, McKenna Hale, Noelle Hisgen, Imani Ibrahim, Kalli Joyce, Lila Keegan, Nora Kennedy, Kel- vin Kyei Ohemeng, Caitlyn LaBonte, Arthur Lam, An- drew Lang, Joshua Lawrence, Alayna Lucas, Alison Mackie, Isabelle Manning, Cailin Mc- Ewan, Makenzie McEwan, Aidan McMinn, Taylor Meu- nier, Margaret Michels, Alyah Nogueira, Thomas O’Toole, Nathan Pace, Makenzi Pas- treck, Abby Peyman, Kamaria Pryce, Dawson Rice, Hayden Richard, Liam Richard, Aiden Rodrigues, Rafa Rodriguez Alvarez, Mialece Rosado, Matthew Ryan, Geeta Sharma, Corey Smith, Joseph Smith, Jack Sullivan, Brady Suomala, Quinn Symington, Leah Tas- sinari, Thomas Tetrault, An- gela Verdon, Gabriella Viruet, Skylar Weinberg, Caeli Whit- comb, Domenic Yacovone

Grade 12 High Honors: Joseph Aguiar, Emmamarie Annear, Matthew Beaudin, Marissa Bontempi, Alani Bo- tas, Jake Burnett, Samantha Burnham, Mackenzie DaFon- seca, Joshua Disa, Nicholas Dufresne, Nina Gallagher, Aaron Gasteyer, Victoria Gonzalez, Hunter Gormally, Giana Hall, Jaiana Hall, Ga- briella Harding, Ian Horne, Ryan Ice, Layla King, Morgan Lape, Gracie Loddo, Antonia Mascaro, Andrew McDon- ald, Catherine McMahon, Collin Meunier, Elizabeth Nguyen, Tiffany Nguyen, Ava Ofcarcik, Ryan Oldread, Ava Peabody, Laura Pecoy, Owen Perry, Emma Powell, Gus Przybyl, Sophia Rachele, Marily Remaly, Alexander Rice, Madeleine Rooney, Ella Sarno, Gianna Siciliano, Aar- on Treat, Sofia Villanueva

Wilbraham Garden Club Scholarship

WILBRAHAM - The Wilbraham Garden Club is pleased to announce that applications are now being accepted for two, \$1,000 scholarships.

We are excited to financial- ly assist graduating seniors, who are residents of Wilbra- ham or Hampden, as they tran- sition to an institution of high- er learning.

All applicants must be planning to major in one of these fields of study:

Botany, Horticulture, Conservation, Environmen- tal Engineering, Environment Science, Earth Systems, For- est Management, Natural Re- sources, Plant, Soil and Insect Science, Sustainable Agricul- ture, Sustainable Horticulture, Food and Farming, Turf Grass Science & Management, Landscape Design & Manage- ment Technology, Landscape Architecture, Oceanography, Clean Energy Technology, Floral Design or Land Man- agement.

Applicants must include a personal essay of 100-200 words, official high school transcript(s), two letters of recommendation, college ac- ceptance letter(s) if available, along with the completed Wil- braham Garden Club Scholar- ship application.

All required documenta- tion must be received on or be- fore April 30, 2025. The dead- line has been extended to give students more time to apply.

Notifications will be made by early May and the recipients will be awarded their scholar- ships at the annual meeting of the Wilbraham Garden Club on June 5, 2025.

Scholarship applications will be available at the Wilbra- ham and Hampden Public Li- braries, Minnechaug Regional High School and Wilbraham Monson Academy.

Please contact how- ella413@gmail.com with questions or to receive an ap- plication.

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 **5/2/2025 at 2 p.m.** to satisfy our garage keepers lien thereon for storage and towing charges and expenses of Notices of Sale.
Mirkins Ideal Cleaning Service
583 State St.
Springfield, MA 01109
2014 Ford Van
VIN: 1FTNE1EW5EDA36048
04/10, 04/17, 04/24/2025

Town of Wilbraham
WILBRAHAM CRACK SEALING 2025
Notice of Invitation for Bids
The Town of Wilbraham in- vites sealed bids for the purchase of Wilbraham Crack Sealing 2025. Bids must be made in accordance with all applicable Federal, State and Town laws and regulations and must comply in all respects with the instructions, conditions, specifications and other require- ments in the Invitation for Bid packages. Prevailing State Mini- mum Wage Rates must be com- plied with as per MGL Ch 149 section 26-27d. These wage rates are contained within the contract documents.

Bid packages can be obtained from the Department of Public Works, Town Hall, 240 Spring- field Street, Wilbraham, MA 01095 (413-596-2800 x208). Bids in sealed, opaque envelopes shall be marked “**Wilbraham Crack Sealing 2025 Bid**” and delivered to the above address by **3:30 p.m. on Thursday, May 8, 2025** where they will be public- ly opened and read aloud by the Chief Procurement Officer. All bids must be submitted on the of- ficial Standard Bid Form, in- cluded in the bid packages. Bids must include the signed Non-Collu- sion and Non-Discrimination, OSHA Training and Labor and Harmony paperwork. No bid- der may withdraw his bid for

a period of forty-five days, ex- cluding Saturdays, Sundays and Holidays, after the actual date of opening of the bids.

The Town reserves the right to reject any and all bids, to waive minor informalities or irregular- ities in any bid,

and to make an award in any manner consistent with the law and deemed to be in the best in- terest of the Town of Wilbraham.

Tonya L. Capparello, P.E.
Director of Public Works/
Town Engineer
04/24/2025

Commonwealth of
Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Hampden Probate
and Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
(413)748-7758
Docket No. HD25P0809EA
Estate of:
Edward Joseph Knight
Date of Death: 12/15/2024
CITATION ON PETITION
FOR FORMAL
ADJUDICATION

To all interested persons:
A Petition for **Formal Pro- bate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **Jacquelyn Ann Wheeler of Wilbraham, 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: **Jacquelyn Ann Wheeler of Wilbraham, MA** be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond in **unsuper- vised 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 writ- ten appearance and objection

at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 05/14/2025. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affi- davit 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 administra- tion is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons inter- ested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the ad- ministration 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 admin- istration.

WITNESS, Hon. **Barbara M Hyland**, First Justice of this Court.

Date: April 16, 2025
Rosemary A Saccomani,
Register of Probate
04/24/2025

LEGAL NOTICE
This ad is pursuant to MA Gen. Law Ch.255, Sec. 39A as of May 9, 2025 the following motor vehicle will be for sale to satisfy a garage keepers lien:
2014 BMW X1
VIN: WBAVL1C59EYV17128
COLOR: Gray
LKO: Ludero Monterio
67 Fuller St., Apt. 1
Brockton, MA 02301
R & S Assoc. Inc
PO Box 543
Wilbraham MA 01095

413-596-4374
04/24, 05/01, 05/08/2025

WILBRAHAM
PLANNING BOARD
PUBLIC HEARING

In accordance with M.G.L. Chapter 41, Section 81Q, the Wilbraham Planning Board will hold a Public Hearing on **Wednesday, May 7, 2025 at 6:00PM** in the Town Office Building, 240 Springfield Street, to give interested parties the op- portunity to comment on pro- posed amendments to the Wil- braham Rules and Regulations Governing the Subdivision of Land (Subdivision Regulations) that regulate the division of land and construction of subdivision roadways. The proposed amend- ments will comprehensively update and replace the 1996 Subdivision Regulations includ- ing but not limited to updates to definitions, submittal require- ments, procedures, performance guarantee requirements, and road construction standards.

The complete text of the pro- posed amendments is available for review in the Town Clerk’s Office and the Planning Office during normal business hours and posted for public viewing on the Planning Board page of the Town of Wilbraham website at [www.wilbraham-ma.gov/123/ Planning-Board](http://www.wilbraham-ma.gov/123/Planning-Board). All persons in- terested or wishing to be heard on this matter are urged to attend the public hearing.

Both in person and virtual participation are available. To participate virtually go to [https:// meet.goto.com/765926205](https://meet.goto.com/765926205) or call 866-899-4679 (Access Code: 765-926-205).

James Rooney, Chair
04/17, 04/24/2025

Town of Wilbraham
WILBRAHAM ON-CALL
TREE REMOVAL AND
TRIMMING 2025

Notice of Invitation for Bids

The Town of Wilbraham in- vites sealed bids for the purchase of Wilbraham On-Call Tree Re- moval and Trimming 2025. Bids must be made in accordance with all applicable Federal, State and Town laws and regulations and mus comply in all respects with the instructions, conditions, specifications and other require- ments in the Invitation for Bid packages. Prevailing State Mini- mum Wage Rates must be com- plied with as per MGL Ch 149 section 26-27d. These wage rates are contained within the contract documents.

Bid packages can be obtained from the Department of Public Works, Town Hall, 240 Spring- field Street, Wilbraham, MA 01095 (413-596-2800 x208) on April 23, 2025. Bids in sealed, opaque envelopes shall be marked “**On-Call Tree Removal and Trimming 2025 Bid**” and delivered to the above address by **3:30 p.m. on Thursday, May 8, 2025** where they will be public- ly opened and read aloud by the Chief Procurement Officer. All bids must be submitted on the official Standard Bid Form, in- cluded in the bid packages. Bids must include the signed Non- Collusion and Non-Discrimina- tion paperwork. No bidder may

withdraw his bid for a period of forty-five days, excluding Satur- days, Sundays and Holidays, af- ter the actual date of opening of the bids.

The Town reserves the right to reject any and all bids, to waive minor informalities or irregular- ities in any bid, and to make an award in any manner consistent with the law and deemed to be in the best interest of the Town of Wilbraham.

Tonya L. Capparello, P.E.
Director of Public Works/
Town Engineer
04/24/2025

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

		B	B	C		G	A	S		S	P	T	
		L	A	O		E	N	E		A	R	A	
P	R	E	G	L		N	A	N		N	E	I	V
I	M	A	G	I	N	E		S	A	D	D	L	E
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		A	C	E		C	A	R		R	E	M	
		R	E	D		E	R	A		T	R	Y	

DL&G TREE

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



INSURED AND CERTIFIED