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# TIMES

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## Hampden blossoms into spring with daffodils

By Kristin Rivers  
Editor  
krivers@turley.com

HAMPDEN - If you've driven around Hampden lately, you might have noticed pops of color as daffodils bloom around town.



A close-up of a daffodil in the sunshine outside the Hampden Senior Center on Allen Street in Hampden.

The daffodils, planted by the garden club, are found along Main Street, the Town House, the senior center, Memorial Park, St. Mary's Cemetery, Old Hampden Cemetery, the police station and the churches including St. Mary's Catholic Church.

Connie Witt, the garden club's historian, got the idea over 20 years ago, wanting Hampden to have daffodils blooming in town like the ones found on Nantucket.

Witt explained the plantings

Please see **SPRING**, page 7



Turley Photo by Charles F. Bennett

After years of planning the new Wilbraham Senior Center was opened at the Ribbon Cutting April 20. (From left) Dir. of Elder Affairs Paula Dubord cuts the ribbon with the help of Building Committee Chairman George Fontaine while Rep. Angelo Puppolo and Sen. Jake Oliveira look on.

## Wilbraham Senior Center officially opens

Festivities include ribbon-cutting, donor reception and more

By Kristin Rivers  
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WILBRAHAM - After 14 years of development, fundraising and challenges, the new senior center in Wilbraham has officially opened its doors.

The grand opening comes after the new senior center, lo-

cated at 250 Springfield St. behind the Town Hall, held its groundbreaking ceremony in February 2023 and, later, a soft opening to the community last month.

The new space is comprised of an information station, lounge space, a cafe area, a library, a large multipurpose room, a game room with two billiards tables, a fitness room, a wellness room for appointments, a commercial kitchen area and two activity rooms.

Outside, residents are greeted with an outdoor space

with patio furniture and bocce courts.

But before the grand opening took place, a donor reception was held on April 19 with a social hour, self-guided tours, booklets depicting the journey of the new senior center, complimentary photos, musical performances by the Old Post Road Orchestra and catering provided by The Log Cabin in Holyoke.

**Donor Reception Reflections**  
Matt Villamaino, president of the Friends of Wilbraham

Seniors, thanked the donors for their support.

"It's because of the major donors that we were able to raise a lot of funds and everything you see around here, in the inside, the tables and chairs, the cabinets, the pool tables, the bocce courts on the patio, it's all a result of the donations made by you folks and we thank you very much," Villamaino said.

Paula Dubord, director of elder affairs, said "small or large, every penny added

Please see **SENIORS**, page 12

## Old Meeting House Museum to open for the season on May 11

Open Houses will now be on Saturday afternoons this season

By Charles F. Bennett  
Times Editor Emeritus

WILBRAHAM - The Old Meeting House Museum is coming out of hibernation Saturday, May 11 from 2 to 4 p.m. during the Monson Road Hill Climb weekend with a refresh of exhibits and the first full use of its new accessible entrance that doesn't look like a ramp but provides easy entrance from the parking lot.

The museum is ready to greet guests with a redesigned gift shop restocked with "Wilbraham" tee shirts for townies and visitors

alike, and an inventory of Wilbraham history books for those who want to know more about the town's origins.

The museum, overseen by the Wilbraham Atheneum Society's Board of Trustees, headed by historian and retired Fire Chief David Bourcier, has announced a change of the monthly open houses from Sundays to Saturday afternoons this season. The talks by guest speakers will be moved from the Wilbraham & Monson Chapel, now undergoing construction, to the Brooks Room of the Wilbraham Public Library at 2 p.m. followed by refreshments afterwards in the museum.

As part of its tradition and goal to inform residents, new and old, of the history of Wilbraham going back to the 1730s, all museum



Times file photo

The Old Meeting House Museum, with its new front entrance and accessible ramp, will open for the season of Open Houses on Saturday, May 11 from 2 to 4 p.m. during the Hill Climb weekend.

events, from guest lectures to kids' activities like the historical Scav-

enger Hunt at the Christmas Tree Festival, are free and open to the

public.

### Guest Speakers

An entire new set of guest lecturers are on tap this season including a New York Times Best-selling author.

The first guest speaker, on June 8, will be the museum's own David Bourcier, author of "Wilbraham Historical Tidbits" where he brings into focus, with stories and photos, historical events that took place in the town like the legend of the "Pesky Sarpent", where Timothy Merrick was bitten by a rattlesnake and died or when Abigail Merrick, who was drowned with five others in Nine Mile Pond April 29, 1799.

Her drowning was the result of a boating accident on the

Please see **MUSEUM**, page 13

# Advisory Committee reviews warrant articles in public hearing

By Kristin Rivers  
Editor  
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HAMPDEN - Advisory Committee held a public hearing on April 16 to re-evaluate recommended town warrant articles for the Annual Town Meeting.

Advisory Committee Chair Doug Boyd went through the 31 recommended town warrant articles as residents asked questions and shared comments.

Article 11 focuses on an expansion project for the senior center to see if the town will appropriate borrowing money to expand and renovate it.

Senior Center Building Committee Chair Don Collins explained there is a preliminary plan that will be presented.

"The professional estimates of the cost of the program would be \$6.6 million," Collins said. "If you look at the amount of money that is spent for the seniors in town, if you look at the Council on Aging, in the building, it's \$250,000 out of our \$16 million budget, which is basically 1.5% of the town budget which is currently spent for the operation of the senior center."

After a resident asked if there would be a financial analysis of how much the project would cost taxpayers, Boyd confirmed yes.

"There's been some preliminary discussion, but there's a lot of assumptions involved in that, like, how much of a down payment we'd make, what term is it borrowed over what's the interest rate, pretty significant variables that have to be assumed," Boyd said. "But, there'll be a number, a range."

Articles 13 through 15 concern improvements to the Scantic Valley Water District, its expansion and extension.

Selectman Craig Rivest provided an

overview of the articles, which if approved, would make improvements and upgrades to the pump station, expand the water district to add more houses and extend the geography of the water district.

"They're all broken into phrases. This all stems from contamination from the landfill 25 years ago, but now the DEP and EPA are regulating for everyone the PFAs chemicals in and around public water supplies and they're really targeting municipalities that have transfer stations or closed transfer stations," Rivest said. "Because of that, they're requiring additional testing on those homes in the district."

Rivest added if positive hits are found for PFAs, annual testing would change to quarterly testing.

"Those have increased our testing costs maybe to \$150,000 a year now across the district," Rivest said.

Rivest clarified the \$150,000 a year amount would pertain to the pump station for a total of \$2.3 million, he anticipates there would be no action on article 14 and article 15 would have action in terms of increasing the footprint of the district.

"We have applied for a couple of one-stop grants, disadvantaged community grants," Rivest said. "So, we may have additional funding that if we do get it, we could start some of the other projects without spending any money."

Article 23 on the Government Study Committee report was another highlight, to see if the town will vote to hear their review of all aspects of Hampden town government or take any action.

The following four articles, 24 through 27, would pertain to possible ballot questions on increasing the Board of Selectmen from three to five members, changing the town clerk from elected to appointed, combining the treasurer

and tax collector positions and changing from elected to appointed and authorize electronic voting at town meetings.

After Government Study Committee Chair Donna Hatch asked about the process, Town Moderator Rick Green said it would break into two parts.

"So, if the article warrant is structured by the Selectmen is designed to authorize a report, then that would be the vote. For example, if the vote came back negative not to hear your report, we would still be taking action on the questions that follow," Green said. "Each one is individual, so I think voters would want to hear the report, but obviously, the vote has to happen first before you give the report."

Articles 24 through 27 would need to pass a town meeting vote and an election vote for approval.

Town Clerk Eva Wiseman expressed concerns about getting ahead of the game procedurally, saying how the committee

oversaw giving the report, "not to act on it at this time."

"I think putting the questions on already before we even heard the report--I know we're going to hear it then I understand that--but I think procedurally we're getting ahead of the game here," Wiseman said.

Hatch responded how the committee's charge was to issue a report with recommendations, pointing out pages 10 to 19 of the report explaining why they are recommended as town warrant articles.

"It's been embedded through the town attorney you see the proposed warrant article and then go to the ballot. The ballot questions are included also," Hatch said.

After the hearing, the Advisory Committee continued their own meeting to review the recommended town warrant articles.

## Rotary Club unites the generations for a 'Day of Service' in Hampden

HAMPDEN - Although it was a typical Spring day, in the 50's with periods of cloudy, blustery weather, the spirit of community service brought a ray of sunshine to Hampden's Memorial Park as the older generation of Rotary Club members joined with the young members of the Above Influence Club at Minnechaug to perform a day of service to the community.

On Saturday, April 13, the Rotary Club, led by its president Don Flannery and the Above Influence Club, advised by Jay Dalessio stained a massive wooden Playscape in the park's playground that hadn't been upgraded since it was installed there in 2007.

The two generations worked together in the Rotary's Spirit of "Service Above Self" and both groups were rewarded for their selfless labor with hot chocolate and pizza.

The effort was part of more than 100 Rotary clubs and thousands of Rotarians who volunteered in their communities for the 'Rotary Day of Service,' collecting clothes for the homeless, refurbishing parks, building shelters, and much, much more.

For information about joining the organization call its secretary Brad Sperry at 413-537-4171.

## Register to vote in upcoming town meeting and election

WILBRAHAM - According to Wilbraham Town Clerk, Carole J. Tardif, residents who are not registered voters, who wish to vote in the upcoming Town Meeting on Monday, June 3, 2024 and Town Election on Saturday, May 18, 2024 must register to vote by 5 p.m. on Tuesday, May 7, 2024. Registration hours are daily 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. On Tuesday, May 7, 2024, 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](http://registertovotema.com). Please contact the Wilbraham Town Clerk's Office if you have any questions at 596-2800, ext 200.

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# Board of Selectmen approves year three salary increases for highway department

Updates on double poles presented

By Kristin Rivers  
Editor  
krivers@turley.com

HAMPDEN - The Board of Selectmen approved year three salary increases for the highway superintendent and highway union contracts on April 16.

Highway Superintendent Mark Langone explained there was language in his and the highway union's current contracts about revisiting or opening discussions on years two and three "if the CPI is over 3% as of February."

"We did it last year and I'm here again this year to see if the board would open up discussions on adjusting my salary," Langone said.

Langone said what sets him and the Highway Department apart is scheduling and he understands how the Advisory Committee set the COLA at 3.5.

He also stressed he doesn't want to take away from bargained employees and town departments as the Highway Department is non-bargained.

"I'm on call 24/7, winters basically," Langone said. "I live here, put in a good day's work and I think that shows and our recognition of our roads during the winter and otherwise, get a lot of compliments no

matter what time of year it is."

For the contract, Langone is requesting 5% for year three.

Selectman John Flynn pointed out to the board section six of the amended contract because the math did not carry through to year three.

"So, as Mark said, the board voted to adjust the base salary for year two, which should have necessitated year three to go up with the same negotiated amount that was in the prior contract (at) 2.5%," Flynn said. "If you look at these numbers here, you'll see that if you treat the way it's written there, it's a 1% bump from two to three."

After reviewing and correcting the numbers, the highway superintendent contract representing a 5% increase for a salary of \$101,370 from year two passed 3-0.

For the highway union contract, a request for a 7% increase was presented, which was later negotiated to 5%.

"I think we should do the same that we did for Mark and the police, which is five," Davenport said.

"I agree," Flynn said.

This motion of a 5% increase for year three for a salary total of \$31,092 passed 3-0.

Another item of note was an update on double poles, with Chair Don Davenport explaining he and Town Administrator Brian Domina had "a very nice conversation" with National Grid.

"The information is that we cur-

rently have 44 open tickets for double poles, which means that National Grid has done their job. They've transferred the lines over and they're waiting," Davenport said. "The next person in line has to do their job. 32 of those are Verizon and 12 of those are Charter."

Davenport said they can see where the tickets are and where they go to stay up to date on the status.

"Once that happens, Verizon and Charter, I think, can remove the poles," Davenport said.

After this, Davenport added, the next project is over 200 draft double poles.

"Which means that they're double poles or they're going to be double poles, but the ticket hasn't been opened to change to have the next person up that's due up to change," Davenport said. "270 haven't entered the queue yet. 105 of those are awaiting construction."

Davenport said the poles "haven't entered the queue yet" and the work "should be completed" by April 30.

On assessing the poles, Davenport spoke with the assessor about whether both poles would need to be assessed.

"They said, 'Well, actually, if the pole is there on Jan. 1, we should assess it,'" Davenport said. "So they're going to look at those 44 poles and see if they should be assessed."

## Wilbraham Hiking Club posts hikes

WILBRAHAM - The Wilbraham Hiking Club has posted its May and early June hikes on its pages at the TeamReach App. There are exciting options, including:

- a more challenging, quicker-paced hike at the Rice Nature Preserve in Wilbraham
- a birding walk at the McDonald Nature Preserve in Wilbraham
- a quicker-pace guided hike on the "back-roads" of the Norcross Wildlife Sanctuary in Wales
- and relaxed pace hikes in Wilbraham, Brimfield, and West Brookfield

For more information or to RSVP for a hike, please check the club's pages on TeamReach. To join the club on TeamReach, use the code WHC01095. If you do not use apps, you can join the club by writing to wilbrahamhiking@gmail.com



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# Mass Audubon Society outlines planned work in Hampden

Proposed work will occur at Laughing Brook site and extend onto town parcel

By Dalton Zbierski  
Correspondent

HAMPDEN – Representatives of the Mass Audubon Society appeared during Monday’s Board of Selectmen interview to discuss proposed work on the Laughing Brook Wildlife Sanctuary that would extend onto a four-acre town parcel.

Mass Audubon protects over 41,000 acres of land in Massachusetts, saving birds and other wildlife. Among its 160,000 members and supporters are CT River Valley Sanctuaries Director Jonah Keane and Senior Conservation Ecologist Tom Lautzenheiser; both spoke extensively during the April 22 meeting.

Keane joined the Selectmen previously to discuss a project Mass Audubon plans to do at the Laughing Brook Wildlife Sanctuary that, in agreement with the town, would extend onto a town parcel behind the school.

“East of Big Brook, there’s a parcel that abuts Mass Audubon land on three sides, so I’ve planted the seed last time of maybe it would make sense to extend that project we’re looking to do at Laughing Brook onto the town parcel,” Keane said.

Keane said he was “back

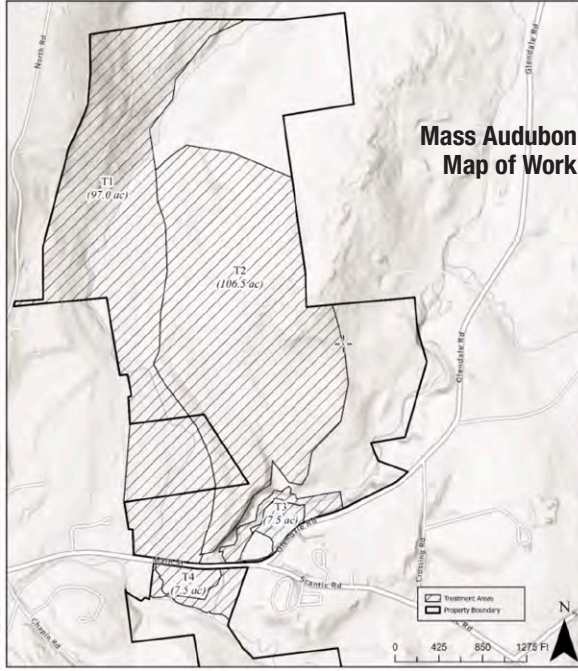
so soon” because Mass Audubon is exploring a funding opportunity through the Natural Resources Conservation Service with a deadline coming in the next couple of weeks. An agreement with the town would not need to be in place for Mass Audubon to receive the funding, but Mass Audubon would have to know if the town would approve work being done on the town parcel.

Keane stressed that the work would not begin in the coming days, as there are many steps to go, funding being a critical one. He noted that while the whole site was previously closed, Mass Audubon has reopened the picnic area and pond at the sanctuary, as the only danger from rotting trees over trails exists in the woods, which are still closed.

Lautzenheiser said that even with the funding opportunity available, the work may not happen for another two years if not longer.

“So, it’s a very preliminary conceptual idea that we’re presenting here,” he said.

One of the actions Mass Audubon intends to pursue on the site is invasive plant management along the Big Brook



corridor, which would involve stem treatment with an herbicide called glyphosate.

Selectman Craig Rivest voiced concerns about using an herbicide on the site, but Lautzenheiser assured him that the work will not occur near the drinking water wells or on town property. The glyphosate will be used to kill Japanese barberry and will help stop the closure of the sanctuary.

Another component of the project is forest management using heavy forestry equipment to remove oak trees that have been killed by the recent infestation of spongy moth. Those dead oak trees are making the trails too dangerous to be opened to the

public on windy days. “The whole area that we’re talking about is 14 acres. That section east of the brook is more like four acres. That’s the part that’s on the town property that would be included in the forest management property,” Lautzenheiser said.

Grant funding would be important because Mass Audubon does not currently have the resources to hire a private logger to remove the dead trees.

The Selectmen were on board with the logging aspect of the plan but had questions regarding the herbicide. Selectman John Flynn said the Scantic Valley well is on the property, and there is a public water supply that supplies the school.

“That’s the reason we actually bought that property about 20 years ago. I think the herbicide part that Craig talks about is important to us,” Flynn said. “I think none of us have an opposition to maintaining (the forest). It allows you to take care of any fire danger and allows you to take care of any dead trees and stuff like that. I think we’re all in favor of that type of thing.”

Lautzenheiser stressed that herbicides would not be used in any area near a public drinking water supply, as Rivest worried the chemicals could drip down into it. Lautzenheiser explained how the herbicide would be applied.

The herbicide would tightly bind

to the soil, so it doesn’t move when applied. It would be applied using cut stem treatments that would involve contact with a freshly cut surface of a plant so there’s no chemical permeating into the ground water. One of the primary benefits of glyphosate is that it binds to soil.

“We wouldn’t be doing any herbicide treatment in a public drinking supply area,” Lautzenheiser said. “If you ever played bingo and you’re familiar with those dot stampers, basically they make something called a buckthorn blaster that’s basically that dot tool, only you fill it with herbicide. You cut the stem, dot it and it stays there. You have a little die that marks it as treated and you’re done.”

Speaking to why the work needs to be done, Lautzenheiser noted that invasive species “don’t go away and they don’t follow property lines,” and that Mass Audubon is trying to “treat this in a more comprehensive manner.”

He acknowledged that, speaking from experience, a lot of people don’t like change, especially in and around forest management and cutting trees. Gauging public input is a significant step.

“It can often be a sensitive issue, so we try to hold site walks and a meeting at the library,” Lautzenheiser said. “In communities where we’ve done this type of work before, we do try to make an effort at public outreach, as we’re sort of developing the concepts and getting more confident that it’s going to happen. We try to solicit opinions before anything’s happening to understand feedback and sensitivity.”

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**VIEWPOINTS**

# Some things are worth waiting for

After waiting 14 very long years, our new and very functional senior center is now officially opened to the public. This historic day began with the Grand Opening/Ribbon Cutting ceremony on Saturday April 20 and continued on with the open house that was attended by hundreds of people throughout the day. Kudos to Master of Ceremony Dennis Lopata, State Senator Jacob Oliveira, State Representative Angelo Puppolo, Jr., Select Board Chair Theresa Goodrich and Paula Dubord, Director of Elder Affairs who gave a complete detailed summary, sometimes quite emotional, I might add, on all the happenings over the past 14 years that included many ups and downs during this journey. Her persistence to fulfill her IMPOSSIBLE DREAM was made possible by her sheer determination to never give up.

In March 2023, the Friends of Wilbraham Seniors set an aggressive goal to raise \$750,000 to make up for significant budget cuts to the construction budget. All furnishings, fixtures, accessories and some equipment were eliminated in order to start construction. As a fundraising organization, we stepped up to fill this void. I'm proud to report as of last week we

exceeded our goal and raised \$896,341 from approximately 450 very generous and caring individuals and businesses. I can't tell you how grateful we are for their donations and kindness! About 75% was raised in the past year as a direct result of our dedicated Capital Fundraising Committee made up of volunteer town residents Mary Ellen Scott, Steve Cooper, Peter Salerno, Chuck Pelouze, Charlie Bennett, Ben Coyle and myself.

The addition of our new Senior Center adds yet another great gem to our town that complements our schools, library, golf course, open space, and parks and recreation including Spec Pond. This and more is what makes Wilbraham a great place to live and enjoy life.

I also want to thank our Board of Directors and hundreds of supporters who have worked tirelessly over the years to fundraise and support our Seniors. During the past 4 years, Board members met twice a month to not only create public awareness that included the "Get Out the Vote" campaign to approve a new facility, we organized numerous fundraisers, and assisted the Capital Fundraising Committee with support related responsibilities. Our current eight member volunteer Board is made up of

Maria Cacela, Lee Tyrrell, Deb Gormley, Dee Mitchell, Kate Belsky, Ann Marie Gaudette, Judy Cmero, and myself. The late Bob Page and Elaine King were recent members.

On behalf of the Friends Board, our Campaign Committee, and the thousands of seniors and supporters who stepped up since 2010 to make this a beautiful, welcoming and functional home for our seniors to enjoy, we are grateful for your support.

Whether participating in various group activities, exercise or wellness programs, nutritious meals, relaxing in our cozy library, playing bocce, billiards, card games, or simply socializing and forging new friendships over a cup of coffee, please know this is YOUR building to enjoy.

If you haven't visited the Senior Center yet, I strongly encourage you to do so and see for yourself what a beautiful addition this is to Wilbraham for current and future generations.

**Thank you,**  
**Matt Villamaino**  
*President,*

*Friends of Wilbraham Seniors*

The Wilbraham-Hampden  
**TIMES**  
**TEAM**



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

**Correction Policy**

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

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

# Transplanting your homegrown seedlings

I bet there are a few garden enthusiasts out there with seedlings up and growing indoors.

My tomatoes are just poking through, but my peppers are ready for transplanting. Why transplant you ask? It's important that we give our young plants room to spread out!

If seeds were sown in rows, chances are that several seedlings have sprouted and are now growing within a close proximity to one another. They are competing for nutrients and moisture.

Even if two seeds were sown in a single cell of a six-pack and both germinated, they too are competing with one another in that tiny of a space. So, if we want garden center quality seedlings, we must transplant them to their own cell or small pot.

You know a seedling is ready for transplant when it has its "true leaves," not the cotyledon leaves that were first to sprout from the seed, but those that come right after. At this point in growth plant roots aren't tangled up and therefore transplant shock can be kept to a minimum.

Although the seedlings may be tiny and appear fragile, transplanting them is quite simple.

First, take a wooden plant label or dull butter knife and "cut" into the row of seedlings. Then, use your implement "spatula-style" to



remove a small cluster of plants from the bottom up.

I always tell folks to "think brownies!" Be careful to get as many roots as you can.

Once you've done this it is time to separate them from one another. Gently pull on a leaf, not the stem, to pry them apart.

Think of it this way: the plant has two leaves but only one stem. If it should snap, that's it! Leaves on the other hand, can and will be replaced if accidentally torn off.

Individual seedlings can be planted in small containers or cell packs filled with soil-less growing medium. We steer clear of garden soil because of the pathogens and weed seeds it may contain as well as its tendency not to drain very well.

Soilless mix is sterile, and has the ability to retain moisture yet drain freely- just what

the young seedling needs as it grows additional roots and top growth.

Make a hole in the moistened growing medium with your finger, a pencil or wooden dibble. Insert the seedling to the correct depth then firm around it with your fingers.

Most are transplanted to the same depth they were growing in the pack.

One exception is tomatoes; they can be buried deeper than they started out. This is because tomatoes have the ability to make roots along the length of their stem.

Another exception are marigolds. More roots mean healthier shoots!

Water the transplants well with a gentle spray. They can now be put back under the artificial lights you've rigged up.

Continue to keep the lights within inches of the plants for the stockiest growth. Or, if you're lucky enough to have a sunroom or hobby greenhouse, the seedlings will thrive there!

Shade them from direct sun for a few days after transplant to prevent wilting. Soon the roots will recover from the shock of transplant and will again be able to sustain the plant.

Night time temperatures can dip as low as 50 degrees for most plants. In fact, lower night temps will help to ensure the stocky specimen we desire.

Fertilize with half-strength liquid plant

Please see **GARDEN**, page 7

## 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.



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A cluster of daffodils in full bloom under the entrance welcoming residents to Hampden Memorial Park. The daffodils were planted by the Hampden Garden Club.



An array of daffodils outside the Town House on Main Street.



Daffodils mixed in with tulips at St. Mary's Catholic Church on Somers Road in Hampden.



A wide shot of many daffodils in bloom outside Old Hampden Cemetery in Hampden.

## Wilbraham-Hampden Scholarship Foundation Annual Raffle Drawing

WILBRAHAM - The Wilbraham-Hampden Scholarship Foundation has mailed raffle tickets to every home and business in the town of Wilbraham and Hampden. You should have received your golden tickets in the mail last week! All proceeds go to our scholarship fund which benefits the seniors of Minnechaug Regional High School. Tickets are \$25 and are tax-deductible as our organization is recognized under Section 501(c)(3) of the IRS code. Prizes include a \$1000 gift certificate to Manny's TV and Appliance, a 1-year Family Membership to the YMCA, Red Sox tickets, \$300 Big Y gift card and other fabulous items and gift cards, donated by local businesses. If you didn't receive a ticket in the mail or would like to purchase more, please email [wilbraham-hampdenscholarship@gmail.com](mailto:wilbraham-hampdenscholarship@gmail.com). For more information, please visit our website at [Wilbraham-hampdenscholarshipfoundation.org](http://Wilbraham-hampdenscholarshipfoundation.org).

## Old Meeting House Museum to open for the season May 11

WILBRAHAM - The Old Meeting House Museum will be open for the season beginning Saturday, May 11 from 2 to 4 p.m. during the Monson Road Hill Climb weekend with a refresh of exhibits and the first full use of its new accessible front entrance ramp that provides easy entrance from the parking lot.

The museum is ready to greet guests with a redesigned gift shop restocked with "Wilbraham" tee shirts and sweatshirts for townies and visitors alike, and an inventory of Wilbraham history books for those who want to know more about the town's origins.

The season of open houses this year includes a talk about Historical Tidbits, storytelling of Wilbraham whalers, an Ice Cream Social, bestselling author Michael Tougias, a collection of political memorabilia and the Christmas Tree Festival.

For more information about the museum or the Wilbraham Atheneum Society email [president@wilbrahamatheneum.org](mailto:president@wilbrahamatheneum.org). See the Old Meeting House Museum's Facebook page or log on to the museum's website at [www.wilbrahamatheneum.org](http://www.wilbrahamatheneum.org).

## Theatre Guild of Hampden seeking directors

HAMPDEN - The Theatre Guild of Hampden is looking for directors for our 2024-2025 season.

For more information, call Mark Giza at 413-204-5333.

### SPRING from page 1

align with the garden's club mission of beautifying Hampden and the surrounding areas and improving gardening and gardeners' knowledge, with 20,000 daffodils planted over 20 years, and, in the past, Wilbraham having received 500 daffodil bulbs and bulbs, also, given to residents to plant wherever they wanted.

"It's just a project to make Hampden look nice and that's what we do," Witt said. "We have had so many planters over the last 20 years. Every member of the garden club has planted some of those daffodils."

Witt loves how the daffodils bring joy to the community, with people stopping her to tell her how much they appreciate them.

She added how the daffodils bring the community together and give beauty to the town.

"When you see one beautiful thing that is common around all of Hampden, it just makes you realize that this is a very nice community. We can do good things. We can do nice things, beautiful things," Witt said.

For her, planting the daffodils gets Witt outside.

"Just being outside, doing something. Doing something that I'm hoping that the next year will produce beauty, joy, and to me, they are," Witt said.

Daffodils are also found at Witt's house, where she's had people visit, sharing the story of a couple visiting someone in Hampden who, while taking a walk at the time, mistook her yard for the park nearby.

"We had a very nice conversation. It was wonderful," Witt said. "If people enjoy them, that's all I care about and our buds have done a good thing, I think."

Beyond the daffodils, Witt said the garden club has planted a maple tree on the town green and four fruit trees on Main Street, which will be blossoming soon after the daffodils start to fade.

The tree plantings are the newest mission for the

### GARDEN from page 6

food every 10 days to two weeks. Begin to "harden-off" your transplants a couple of weeks prior to putting in the ground.

Thus far they have been kept in a carefully controlled environment. Planting them without a period of acclimatization may mean disaster!

Place them outdoors in a shady spot protected from the wind for only a few hours each day. As the days progress keep them out longer and increase their exposure to bright sun and wind.

Don't forget to water during this process, but forgo all fertilizer.

With less than two months to go until the danger of frost is officially passed, our home grown seedlings won't have long to wait, and neither will we!

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

garden club.

"Because we had so much tree damage in the last few years, we've lost a lot of our street trees. So, we've changed our focus now," Witt said.

Witt reminded residents to not pick up the daffodils so all can enjoy them.

"I would like to remind people that they are there for everyone to see and enjoy. Please don't pick them or take them," Witt said.

Witt said the garden club, founded in 1932, meets once a month from April through October, with their biggest fundraiser being the Annual Plant Sale outside Academy Hall during Memorial Day, selling local, native plants.

"Everybody gets a bargain and we make enough money to do something to beautify Hampden and have fun," Witt said.

Witt wants the community to know the daffodils are there for everyone.

"They're just there for your enjoyment, period. Enjoy them," Witt said. "That's why they're planted there. Make it more beautiful, make people happy to see them."

Witt said for anyone interested in joining the garden club, she encourages them to stop by.

The Hampden Garden Club will next meet on May 16 at 7 p.m. at Academy Hall.

"They can come to any meeting and they can join the garden club," Witt said.

To learn more, visit [www.hampdengardenclub.org/](http://www.hampdengardenclub.org/)

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# Hampden celebrates Earth Day with Earth Day Eco Expo



Kelly Walbert, teacher naturalist and staff member with the Mass Audubon Society, introduces Melody to Pita, a box ornate turtle.



Reid Blanchard and his father, Dan Blanchard, director of Hampden Parks & Rec, at their vendor table.



From the left, Shawn Sullivan, volunteer at Minnechaug Land Trust, Fahmida Bashari, member of Minnechaug Land Trust, Bonnie Geromini, administrative assistant for the Conservation Commission, and Ted Zebert, co-chair of the Conservation Commission, share a table together.



Diane Rollins, co-owner at D & R Farm, and Amy Ringuette, employee at D & R Farm, pose with their homegrown vegetables and pastries for sale.



Brenda Pelissier and her daughter, Erin Kraus, of Honey Bear Tea smile with their many tea flavors.



Lil Fedora, president of the Hampden Garden Club, and Jean Kaduy, recording secretary for the Hampden Garden Club, smile at their floral-themed table. The Hampden Garden Club also gave away sprout seed pencils to attendees.

By Kristin Rivers  
Editor  
krivers@turley.com

HAMPDEN - The community visited the Town House on April 20 to celebrate Earth Day at this year's Earth Day Eco Expo.

During the event, attendees met Pita the turtle, an ornate box turtle who is the unofficial ambassador for the Mass Audubon Society, enjoyed solar oven and solar generator demonstrations, a BagShare sewing workshop, educational games and activities, recycling and gardening tips and more.

Free gifts included a stainless steel, reusable water bottle, a sprout seed pencil from the Hampden Garden Club and a sapling from ArborTech Tree Services.

The vendors and town departments included D & R Farm, Ferrindino Maple, Commonwealth Sustainability, the Conservation Commission, the fire department, the senior center, Friends of the Hampden Free Public Library, Lee's Bees, Forastiere and many more.

Parks & Rec Director Dan Blanchard was with his son, Reid, spreading the word about current and upcoming programs, including the Little Laxers Program to introduce two and three-year-old children to sports, and a Used Sneaker Drive event taking place on May 11 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Thornton W. Burgess Middle School gym.

The drive is Reid Blanchard's community service project.

"I think that it's better to have a purpose for old, used shoes instead of wasting them and throwing them in the trash, so it's very good to have a use out of those shoes that are just lying there and eventually going to be wasted and thrown in the trash," Reid Blanchard said.

Dan Blanchard said the event gives him an opportunity to interact with the community and raise awareness for Earth Day and the environment.

"In order to make an impact, you have to make people aware, right? So, any projects like this or events like this that can raise awareness about environmental impact and things like that are a win-win," Dan Blanchard said.

Kelly Walbert, a teacher naturalist at Arcadia Wildlife Sanctuary, part of the Mass Audubon Society, shared information about nature and upcoming events as attendees met Pita the turtle.

Walbert said the Laughing Brook is one of the many unstaffed sanctuaries in the state, encouraging residents to



Board of Selectmen member John Flynn, Heather Jolicoeur and Police Ofc. James Gormally smile for a group photo at the Hampden Green Up Day table.



Sadie and Mila learn how to work a fire hose with Firefighter Chris Patrick during the Earth Day Eco Expo event in Hampden on April 20.



Mary Luff works on her reusable tote bag as part of the BagShare Sewing Workshop.

visit and check out the Insects at Laughing Brook program on May 15 and a Bird Walk at Laughing Brook program on May 25.

"Earth Day is one of those times where the whole community is focused on the importance of taking care of our Earth, so we wanted to take advantage of folks' interest by sharing information about what they can do in their local community," Walbert said.

Walbert shared residents had shared stories about their memories at Laughing Brook and their surprise about the trails in the area.

"So, a lot of folks are excited to hear that there is this place in their community that they can visit. It might be a little different than it once was, but it's still there open for

their use," Walbert said.

Heather Jolicoeur was excited people came early to help clean up parts of Hampden as part of Hampden Green Up Day.

"I think everybody's just doing their part and being aware and bringing your kids along so they know that this is something they should be doing. It means the world to me. We got animals out there, children, anybody who wants to live in a clean town should be out there doing their part," Jolicoeur said.

Jolicoeur added while cleaning, residents could find areas that need extra attention and care in town.

"One thing leads to another leads to another. So, it's a small thing that really helps a lot of different things," Jolicoeur said.

Paul Gonzales showed off his planter box to help self-water plants to prevent water waste and save time watering them. The idea came from wanting to help his wife water the plants in their raised planters.

Gonzales said events like the expo are important for raising awareness and connecting with the community.

"Just doing our little part to participate in this wonderful planet that we have, so whatever we can do to give back, that's a great gift that we can give back," Gonzales said.

Gonzales hopes attendees got a lot out of the expo and connected with the town's resources and local vendors.

"It's fun and educational at the same time," Gonzales said.

Jolicoeur wants the community to know how much their efforts are making an impact on Earth Day and beyond.

"We can't do it if everybody's not helping, so just thank you," Jolicoeur said.

Gonzales's message was this.

"Be aware of more of your community and enjoy life," Gonzales said.

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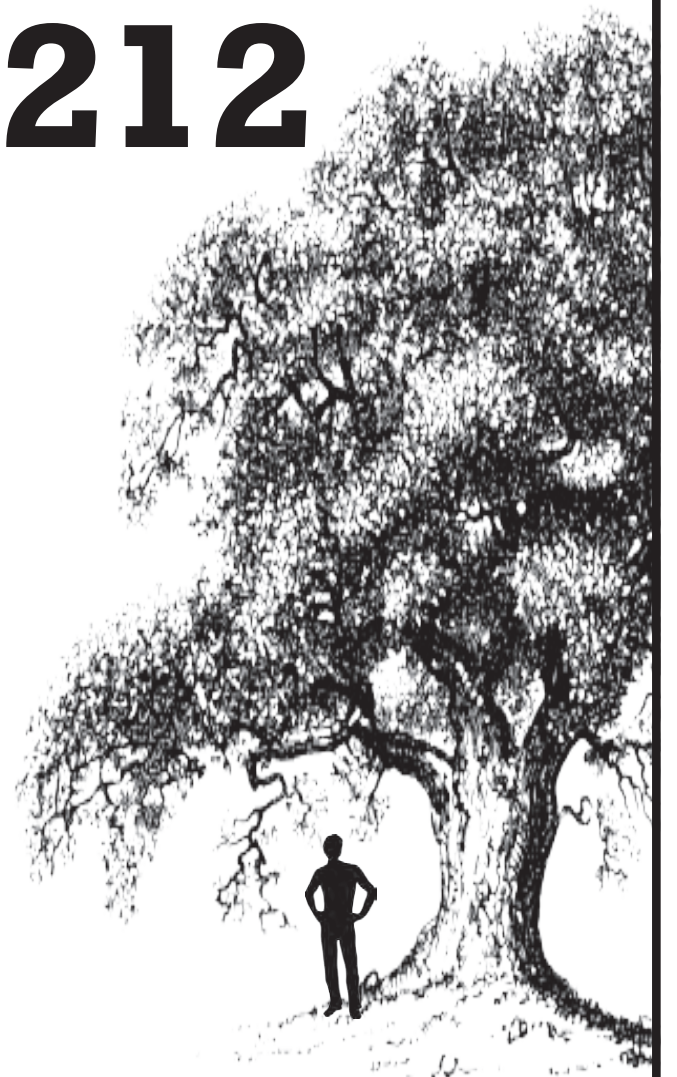
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# A COMMUNITY GALLERY



The Times in Key West!

Phil King and his wife, Pam, and granddaughter Layla read The Times while vacationing in Key West, Florida. Photo submitted by Peter Camyre

*Life in &*

**WIL  
HAM**

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



New ambulance for Wilbraham Fire Department!

The Wilbraham Fire Department Medix Specialty Vehicles.

## Car v. pole accident

The fire department responded to a car v. pole motor vehicle accident on Mountain Road on April 18 with assistance from the Hampden Police Department and Action Ambulance Service Inc. No injuries were reported but the road was impassable between 159 Mountain Rd and 200 Mountain Rd along with a loss of power for a time in the area.

Photo courtesy of Hampden Fire Department



## Hampden Fire assists Monson with LifeFlight landing zone



The Hampden Fire Department received a request for assistance from the Monson Fire Department on April 21 to set up a landing zone for UMass Memorial LifeFlight: "Monson units were operating an injured hiker on Peaked Mountain. Our Kubota later responded and once on scene personnel also assisted Monson with extricating the patient off the trail and to the waiting LifeFlight helicopter." Photos and caption courtesy of Hampden Fire Department

## Day of Service



Wilbraham Rotarians, Club President Don Flannery (top), Secretary Brad Sperry (left) and Charter Member Jim Robinson.



A blending of generations, members of the Wilbraham-Hampden Rotary improve Hampden's Memorial Park on Saturday, April 13. (Front row from left) Charlie Bennett, Jay Dalessio and Kyle Galia. (Top row from left) Jim Robinson, O'Connor, Lucy Haile, Brad Sperry, Larry Ottoson, past district governor. Times photos and captions by Charles F. Bennett

**THIS PAGE IS BROUGHT TO YOU**



Our family keeping your family smiling!



**Wilbraham Family Dentistry,**  
Stephen H. Root, DDS, MAGD

# WILBRAHAM HAMPDEN



Photo courtesy of North Eastern Rescue Vehicles  
Department received a new ambulance on April 18 upon delivery of a  
LLC MSV Ford T-3 from North Eastern Rescue Vehicles.



y Club joined with the Above the Influence Club from Minnechaug, to  
om left) Caroline Maloni, Giselle Harris, Vinny Chiarizio, Jack Straut,  
Diane Ryan, Ann Marie Ottoson, Peter Salerno, Chris O'Connor, Jasper  
and Don Flannery, club president.



Rotary Club charter member Jim Robinson of  
Wilbraham.



An A-framed piece of the Playscape gets a new coat  
thanks to (from left) Lucy Haile, Caroline Maloni and  
Giselle Harris of the Above the Influence Club.



Kyle Gralia (left) and Sam Eaton of the Above the  
Influence Club add their talents to an afternoon at the  
Playscape.



In a joint  
effort, the  
Playscape at  
Memorial Park  
in Hampden  
gets a facelift.



Above the  
Influence Club  
members (on  
see saw, left  
Jack Straut and  
Vyan Patel; see  
saw right, Vinny  
Chiarizio and  
Kyle Gralia) take  
a break from  
staining the  
Playscape.

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## May at the Hampden Senior Center:

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

### Meet your Veteran Service Officer, Jason Burgener

Wednesday, May 1 at 9:30 a.m. at the Hampden Senior Center.

Stop by and enjoy a FREE Donut Dip Donut and Coffee.

Jason is available on Wednesdays from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Hampden Townhouse auditorium.

Please call Jason directly at 413-640-0540 to schedule an appointment.

### Create a Greeting Card with Ellie!

Monday, May 6, 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.

Come and discover endless possibilities for creating your own personal greeting cards.

Meet new friends and learn new techniques each month.

Cost is \$3.00 per person. All materials are provided.

Please call 566-5588 to reserve your seat, space is limited.

### Crafting with Sheree

Tuesday, May 21, 12:30 p.m. to 3 p.m.

This month, we will make two Diamond Dotz Bookmarks. Cost is \$10 per person; all supplies will be provided. Please call 566-5588 to reserve your spot. Space is limited.

### Let's Go Surfin with Joe Green

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

Learn the ins and outs of surf in the web. Make a list of your questions, and Joe will cover it all.

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

Tablets are available for you to use at the Senior Center.

### Grab and Go Dinner

Friday, May 24, pick up from 2 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Enjoy a delicious dinner of BBQ Pulled Pork, Coleslaw, Baked Beans, and Dessert.

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

### Learn to play the Ukulele with Sue

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

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

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

### Coming this Summer ...

Ukulele Instructor, Susan Hand would like to share her love of playing the Recorder.

She will offer half-hour lessons for \$3 a class.

Please see **HAMPDEN**, page 13

## SENIORS from page 1

up," reflecting on the efforts of the Friends of Wilbraham Seniors to fundraise, led by the late Bob Page.

"The list of friends who have had a hand in fundraising and it is long and full of your neighbors who believed in this project. Much like my 14-year-long journey to get a new senior center built, they had their ups and downs, but they persisted," Dubord said.

Select Board Chairman Theresa Goodrich said, "The seniors are the foundation of Wilbraham."

"They have always stepped up throughout the ages to take care of this town, whether it was a new school, a new town hall and the seniors needed this building," Goodrich said. "This was long overdue and I'm so, so happy to see that this building is here today before us."

State Rep. Angelo Puppolo, Jr. (D-Springfield) reflected on how the senior center is the result of funding support at the state level.

"The line items have faces. They have people, their programs, their friends, their neighbors, everybody here. Your family. Other people are going to be able to enjoy this for many many years and decades to come. That's what it's all about. We're building things and we're making things," Puppolo said. "What goes on in here for the programs to enhance our seniors and to make things better each and every day is going to be critically important as we move forward."

State Sen. Jacob Oliveira (D-Ludlow) credited Puppolo and former State Sen. Eric Lesser (D-Longmeadow) for the state support to seniors and senior centers, highlighting the importance of those budget line items.

"We want to have a facility that meets the needs of seniors in the 21st century and this facility does it and, actually, goes beyond it," Oliveira said. "This is not a stagnant center. This is a center that is built for the future and it's the hard work of the Friends of the Senior Center that they put in over a hard 14-year-long process...Now you have a space of your own."

Watching the attendees at the resting bench, Dubord looks forward to seeing the seniors checking out



Charles F. Bennett photo

**Friends of Wilbraham Seniors President Matt Villamaino (center) thanks state Rep Angelo Puppolo Jr. (left) and state Sen. Jake Oliveira for their support of the new senior center project at the Statehouse at Donor Reception April 19.**

the cafe and library area, to read the newspaper, socialize and enjoy coffee.

Dubord noted how a senior was reading a book by the fireplace recently.

"I'm thrilled to see that. Where people feel welcome and that this is a place where they can just come and hang out," Dubord said.

Dubord was thankful for the donors throughout the journey, expressing surprise at the support from people she didn't know or were not connected to the senior center.

"It's mind-blowing. It really is," Dubord said.

Dubord thanked the donors, Friends, businesses and community for their support.

"It's just such a great thing to see everybody come together for this cause that a lot of people said wouldn't happen, and here we are," Dubord said.

### Grand Opening

The following morning, celebration was in the air as the ribbon was cut to officially open the new senior center and hold an open house.

As Master of Ceremonies Dennis Lopata led the grand opening ceremony, Oliveira stressed the importance of investment, dedication and perseverance as he presented a citation from the State Senate.

"This community has consistently invested in both its children with its school system and its seniors with this beautiful building behind us," Oliveira said. "This is an investment the community made, but also an investment made by all the donors and people who aren't here today."

Puppolo, who presented a citation from the State House, thanked everyone who contributed to the project, specifically citing Dubord.

"Without her perseverance and her persistence, we really wouldn't be here today," Puppolo said.

Goodrich reflected on inheriting the project when she joined the Select Board, calling it "a huge group effort by everyone in town."

"When you

walk through this building, you will see their heart and their compassion, which is all of you," Goodrich said. "This building is Wilbraham and when you walk through it, keep that in mind and remember that it's for all of us and for the future generations to enjoy and to participate and to just have fun."

After reflecting on the journey to today and the members who paved the way, Villamaino announced the project had over 450 donors lend their support, raising \$896,341.

"About 75% of that was raised in the last 12 months," Villamaino said.

Dubord shared the entire journey of the past 14 years in her remarks, poignantly reflecting on when she promised the late Kathy Phipps she would see the project through after Phipps was diagnosed with terminal cancer.

"It was Kathy and the wonderful seniors who kept me going. If you don't think that you make a difference, you do," Dubord said. "It seemed right when I needed it the most, one of our seniors would pop into my office and just tell me what a good job I was doing and appreciate all my hard work. You don't know how much that meant."

Dubord said everyone who tested her taught her how "to keep her head up, take the high road and keep going."

"It's true. Good things come to those who wait," Dubord said.

After the ribbon was cut by Dubord and Lopata, Villamaino was at a loss for words on the senior center being officially open to Wilbraham.

He reflected on Page's impact on the project, saying it started with him.



"Bob Page was the driving force back in 2010 and it's because of him and his leadership and his stamina. He's the one that instilled a lot of that in me," Villamaino said.


On Phipps, Villamaino recalled how, "she was the cheerleader, if you will, for the senior center," and the late Zig Pabich was known for his efforts behind the scenes.

"It goes to the dedication of different people and we all believed in one thing and that was we need and want a good senior center in our town, and today we have it," Villamaino said.

Villamaino wants the community to know the senior center is for everyone, encouraging them to stop by.

"This is your senior center. This is your town. This is not just for seniors. Many of the programs that are available, they're designed for seniors but it doesn't mean it's just for seniors. Other people, other groups, whether it's the Boy Scouts, the Cub Scouts, it goes on and on and on," Villamaino said. "This is your town. This is your building. This is not just for seniors."



*Join us for the*  
**Wilbraham & Monson Academy**

**MIDDLE AND UPPER SCHOOL**

# PREVIEW NIGHT


**Tuesday, April 30**  
**6-7 p.m.**

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

**MIDDLE SCHOOL PREVIEW**  
Middle School building

**UPPER SCHOOL PREVIEW**  
Mattern Science Center

**RSVP: [wma.us/preview](http://wma.us/preview)**

**MUSEUM** from page 1

pond where she and five other teenagers and young adults drowned after their sailboat capsized. She is buried at Adams Cemetery on Tinkham Road. Bourcier provides a photo of Abigail's brownstone gravestone in his latest offering.



**N. Y. Times bestselling author Michael Tougias will speak in the Brooks Room of the Library on Saturday, Oct. 5 at 2 p.m.**

On Saturday, July 13 a summer tradition continues with the Ice Cream Social, with sundae cups provided by Friendly's in the garden of the museum. As part of the tradition, artists from the Wilbraham Art League will display their work.

Beloved local storyteller Dennis Picard, who has told scary folktales at Halloween and stories of ancient medical treatments at the museum in previous years, returns on August 3 with a story about (believe it or not?) New England whalers who came from Wilbraham. Picard's talk is called "Gone A Whalin': Western Mass Crews on Whalers".

In describing his program, Picard told me, "When many of us imagine life aboard a 19th century whaling vessel we think of crews filled with men who had grown up with salt air in their lungs. You will hear the true stories of inland crew members from Western Massachusetts and northern Connecticut. Learn about the jobs they filled, their life on a whaler and how they fared."

On Saturday, Sept. 7 there will not be a guest speaker but a special exhibit currently being researched and curated by Atheneum Society Past President Lucy Pelletier and Trustee Marty Lyman.

**King Phillip's War**

N. Y. Times best-selling author Michael Tougias will give a slide presentation on the war between the Colonists and Native Americans in 1675-76 on October 5. Tougias is the author of the acclaimed "Until I Have No Country (A novel of King Philip's War), and co-author with Eric Schultz of "King Philip's War: The History and Legacy of America's Forgotten Conflict."

Tougias is no stranger to Wilbraham and has spoken in the Brooks Room before where he talked about rescues at sea and other adventures on the ocean.

One of his books, "The Finest Hours", was about the night of February 18, 1952, during one of the worst winter storms that New England has ever seen, two oil tankers just off the shore of Cape Cod were torn in half by the force of the storm. The book tells the story of the shipwreck and a Coast Guard rescue when four men in a tiny lifeboat overcame odds against them and saved more than 30 stranded sailors. "The Finest Hours" was made into a 2016 Disney movie starring Chris Pine and Casey Affleck.

Three days before the national election between President Biden and former President Donald Trump, election memorabilia expert Glen Clark (a retired Wilbraham Police Sergeant) will explain the relevance of his collection of historical political items on November 2.

The season wraps up with a family favorite, the Christmas Tree Festival on Sunday, December 1. The Town Christmas Tree Lighting will take place afterwards at 5 p.m. in Gazebo Park.

A selection of Christmas trees will be on display in most rooms of the museum, decorated by various community groups. There will be mulled cider and an ice carving demonstration. The kids will enjoy a historical scavenger hunt.

Watch for detailed previews of each Open House in the Wilbraham-Hampden Times.

For more information about the museum or the Wilbraham Atheneum Society email president@wilbrahamatheneum.org. See the Old Meeting House Museum's Facebook page or log on to the museum's website at www.wilbrahamatheneum.org.



**Guest speaker David Bourcier of "Wilbraham Historical Tidbits" will talk about the tragedy of Abigail Merrick, shown here buried in Adams Cemetery, who drowned with other youngsters in Nine Mile Pond in 1799.**

(Times file photo)

# Select Board to close town warrant on April 29

By Kristin Rivers  
Editor  
krivers@turley.com

WILBRAHAM - Select Board plans to close the 2024 Annual Town Meeting warrant next week.

The vote to close the warrant will take place during the April 29 meeting, where the board will close and sign it.

Town Administrator Nick Breault presented the recommendation on April 22, suggesting the board could also vote on it that evening pending one or two potential articles "that I'm still not entirely certain if they're going to be in there."

"For example, there is a proposal to put SNAP benefits that we already receive as reimbursements for some work that our social services person (Barbara Harrington) at the senior center works on to put those into a revolving fund. We've been sort of researching the issue with counsel, going back and forth a little bit as to whether or not it needs to be or should be its own article or, if not, its own article then you put it in the revolving fund article, which is where I have it right now," Breault said.

One possible warrant article generating conversation was about the Local Options Meals Tax, an item that has gone before Annual

Town Meeting three times before and hasn't passed.

"Wilbraham remains one of the few holdout communities in Hampden County, not to mention the state," Breault said.

When Sue Bunnell asked about the revenue estimate, Breault said last he knew, it was approximately \$130,000 to \$150,000 for a 0.75 meal tax addition to equal 6.25%.

He added how there's legislation pending with the Municipal Empowerment Act that would allow communities to increase it from one to three percent instead of 0.75%.

"But the proposal here would be to adopt it as is with the 0.75 on there and that results in about \$130,000 to \$150,000 in revenue," Breault said.

Bunnell noted when she saw a Local Options Meal Tax listed when she got takeout of seafood from a grocery store in Ludlow, which has the tax in place.

"Again, right? A \$100 bill with 75 cents extra," Bunnell said.

Michael Squindo said he was hesitant given the pending of the Municipal Empowerment Act, suggesting waiting if that passes to go before Town Meeting with their recommendation on this item.

Bunnell then replied earmarking it could be helpful for a subsequent town meeting in the fall if the board wanted to pursue it after having more information.

Chairman Theresa Goodrich said she's not in favor of raising the tax ever, even with the understanding it's a user-based tax.

"With taxes going up across the board for everyone and everything, this is just one more notch in the belt of taxes," Goodrich said. "But, we do need more revenue sources, I recognize that, and I don't want to say this because everyone else is doing it, we should do it, because I don't believe in that."

Goodrich brought up how the item was voted down previously and she's "all for hearing their opinion and their voice" in terms of the voters if presented again.

"I would vote no, personally, on that," Goodrich said.

Squindo, who shared he voted no on this tax before, said similar to the town speed limit warrant article of reducing speed from 30 to 25 mph for possible consideration, using and best presenting the article if that's something the town wants to do would be another thought.

"I think there's no doubt that it creates an opportunity for us," Squindo said.

After the discussion, the board agreed to have the final vote next week, with Breault again stressing the urgency of the decision.

"But that really would have to be it, we really need to get going with that," Breault said.

**HAMPDEN** from page 12

More details will follow.

Please call 566-5588 or let the front desk know if you are interested in signing up.

**HELP US STOCK OUR SHELVES with Liquid Dish Soap!**

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

**D & R Winter Farm Share**  
PICK-UP is on Wednesdays, May

8 & 22 at 9:30 am.

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

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

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

**COMING in June...**

**D & R Farm Summer Farm Share**

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

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

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

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

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

*Dr. Christopher J. Root DMD MAGD and team welcome*

## Dr. Mary Chalino DMD

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

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

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



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



**Wilbraham Dental Associates, LLC**

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

# Community pitches in during 2nd Annual Earth Day Clean Up



Volunteers and vendors getting ready for a busy day of cleaning up Wilbraham.

**By Harrison Giza**  
Staff Writer  
hgiza@turley.com

WILBRAHAM - The 2nd Annual Earth Day Clean Up took place on April 20, starting at Fountain Park and continuing across the areas nearby.

The event's initiative was to gather any litter seen throughout the town including streets, tree belts, public parks, playgrounds, trails or conservation areas. Once the items were collected, volunteers were encouraged to bring them back to Fountain Park for disposal.

Megan Harrigan, event chairman of the Keep Wilbraham Beautiful Committee, a chapter of Keep Massachusetts Beautiful, was the lead organizer for the event.

"We are very happy with the success of the 2nd annual event," Harrigan said. "We had fewer number of volunteers but not less in enthusiasm. Everyone that came out was dedicated to the cause."

Keep Wilbraham Beautiful is a part of Keep Massachusetts Beautiful, a nonprofit organization dedicated to the simple idea that, quote, "beauty matters." The group started in 2014 and has now become a voice for great environmental change in Western Massachusetts.

"We want to give a huge thank you to the generous donors that make this event possible," Harrigan said. "Covering the cost of the trash removal, the volunteer luncheon, the safety supplies and even bonus free donuts is just truly remarkable."

Harrigan was beyond thrilled. "We had people of all ages, from all corners of town, clearing streets, trails, playgrounds and neighborhoods," Harrigan said. "Boy Scouts, Girls Scouts, a team from Friendly's, a church group, friends of the library, teams of friends and neighbors."

The goal of the event was to raise awareness, create a sense of community and positively impact the town through a dedicated clean-up of all walks of Wilbraham.

"Unfortunately, we found some large items," Harrigan said. "A boat toilet was the most surprising. Other items included, a slide, a couch, rusty metal, a broken tv, propane tank, 11 tires and more."

Harrigan, who has children of her own, felt disheartened when it came to the items scattered throughout Wilbraham.

"The repeat story that saddens so many is the erroneous amount of nips and alcohol waste littering the roads," Harrigan said. "Unacceptable and unnecessary to pollute our beautiful town."

With approximately 150 volunteers,

8,020 pounds of materials were collected.

"We filled the dumpster and there were lots of heavy bulky items. I am thrilled with the volunteers' dedication. Everybody that was there was really in it to make a difference which was fantastic. We were down on numbers, but I was still happy with the dedication of the people that were there," Harrigan said.

Daisy Plantier had a fuzzy wolf friend by her side on Springfield Street working hard alongside her mother, Planning Board member Tracey Plantier, who is also a member of the Open Space & Recreation Committee.

Plantier is an animal lover as well as a woman with a passion for the environment. She couldn't believe her eyes at the amount of trash in town.

"Her and I picked up Algonquin yesterday and spent the afternoon there because it was nice out. I help out at Fountain Park sometimes and I didn't know if we would be able to go out and clean up or if we needed to stay much closer to the event, so, her and I went there and we were surprised. We picked up 3 full bags there... not giant ones but it was still surprising. I thought maybe we would go and pick up a couple of bottles because it is a quiet little street but I couldn't believe there was that much trash



Planning Board member Tracey Plantier, also a member of the Open Space & Recreation Committee, alongside dedicated 3 year old, Daisy, made the town a cleaner place on Saturday.

on that street," Plantier said.

Harrigan hopes this event sparks further change.

"I think it is an easy thing that we all need to do better for our planet and for our community," Harrigan said. "It really is wonderful that so many people from all different organizations and different personalities and different styles and ages come together to pitch in... it is a great event because it fits all."

With the event now in its second year, Harrigan and her team show no signs of stopping.

"We are going to continue to do our annual event," Harrigan said. "We are going to try to encourage people to keep the trash off of the road throughout the years as well. We want to advocate for people to not litter in the first place and drive awareness to that cause."

# Softball stars shine bright on Opening Day



From parents to sports fans, McLaughlin Field was absolutely packed in support of Wilbraham softball.



The Minnechaug softball team was in full force Saturday, with each member ready to help the girls have fun through their favorite sport.



Coach Farrell's team after a few minutes of catching and pitching drills.



The batting cages were a highlight for anyone who attended, with MRHS players helping the youth learn the proper swing.



Heavy hitters were everywhere on Saturday. Fontaine #6 was one of them.



Softball players from the left, Molly Baroni, McKinley Jaeger and Madelyn Boudreau.

Turley photos by Harrison Giza

**By: Harrison Giza**  
Staff Writer  
hgiza@turley.com

WILBRAHAM - The Opening Day ceremony for Girls Softball started at 10 a.m. on April 20 at Spec Pond's McLaughlin Field.

Local athletes were encour-

aged to walk up with their teams and coaches as their lineup for the season was announced for attendees.

Martha Queiroga, one of the lead organizers for the event, was all smiles.

"The turnout was great," Queiroga said. "I think the girls were

just really excited to be there and to be with their teams. They loved being able to be participants in these really cool drills that our Minnechaug Falcon Softball teams were running. It was great to see them together and be able to be part of a team, running and having fun. I think they really enjoyed it."

By 10:30 a.m., the girls were running Spec Pond, organizing various softball drills at rotating stations. Each station was run by Minnechaug softball players and their respective coaches. Slices of pizza and ice cream were served to attendees at the public gazebo and at noon, U14 players were having

a scrimmage.

Queiroga attributes the success of the event to the commitment and diligence of all those involved.

"We have our Wilbraham-Hampden Softball Committee that has been going strong

Please see **SOFTBALL**, page 20

# SPORTS

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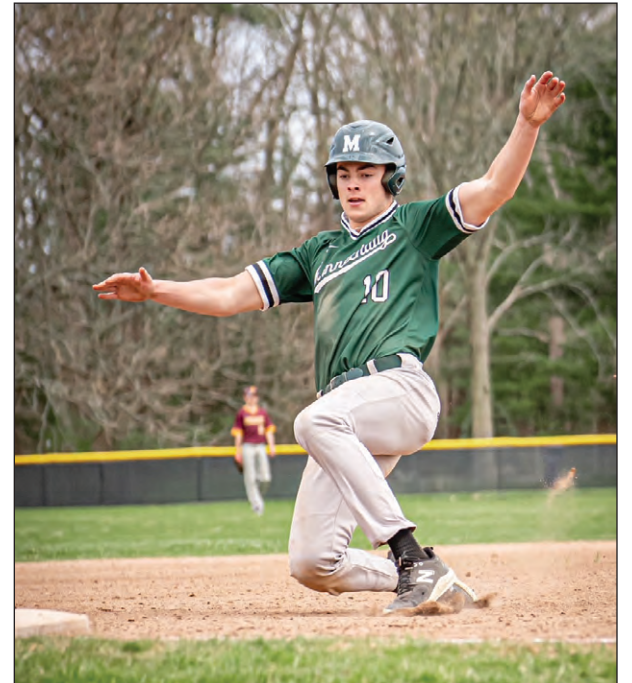
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Turley photos by Sofia DiGrande  
**Bryce Barlow rounds third and heads for home.**



**Ethan Purcell pitches for the Falcons.**



**Tim Harrigan slides safely into third base.**

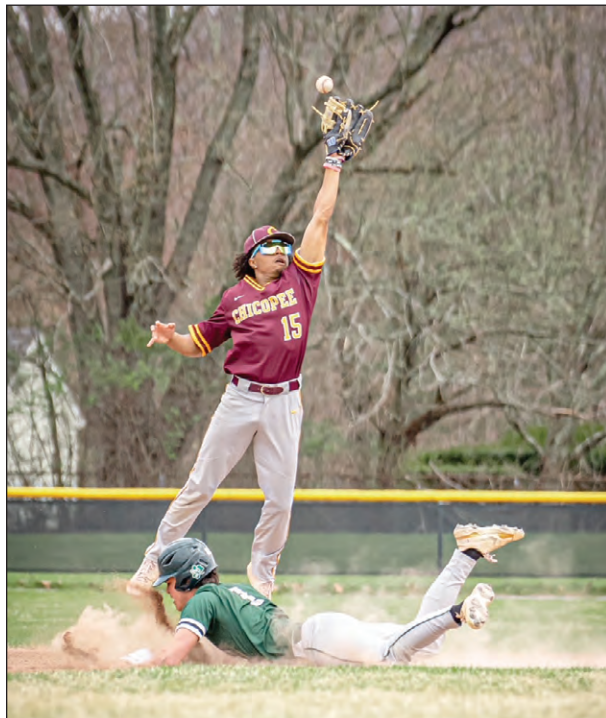
## Falcons offense scores big in win

WILBRAHAM – Last Wednesday afternoon, Minnechaug baseball scored a 10-0 shutout of Chicopee High School. The Falcons got two hits each from

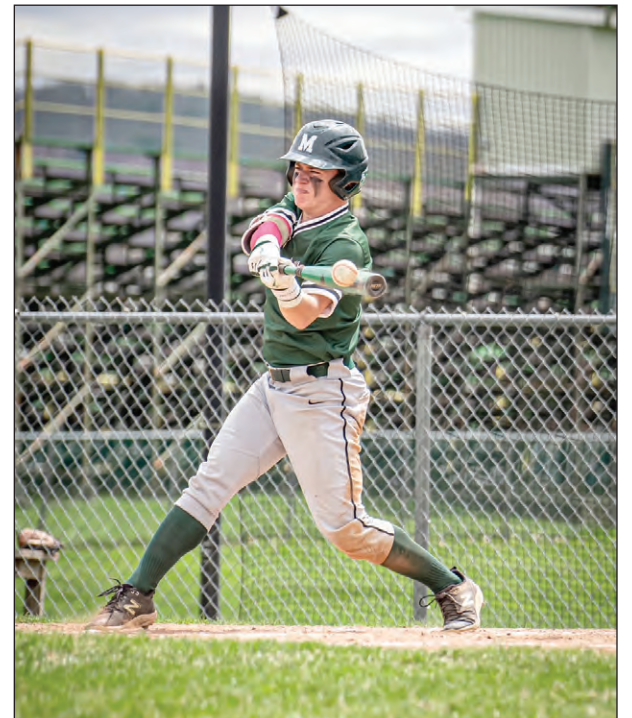
Sawyer Lisowski and Vince Chiarizio. Chiarizio had three RBI in the game and Lisowski scored two runs in the win. The Falcons are now 2-5 on the season.



**Matt Nordstrom takes a swing.**



**Davis Nelson steals second with a headfirst slide.**



**Sawyer Lisowski connects on a base hit.**

## Boys volleyball suffers setback at Agawam

AGAWAM – Last Wednesday evening, Minnechaug boys volleyball was defeated by host Agawam 3-1. The loss broke up a two-game winning streak. But Minnechaug quickly rebounded and defeated

Putnam 3-0 last Friday evening and are now 5-4 on the regular season. The Falcons rematch with Agawam on Thursday, April 25 at home at 6:15 p.m.



**Andrew Szpakowski spikes the ball away.**



Turley photos by Sofia DiGrande  
**Javien Santiago reaches out for a bump.**



**Jonah Rost sends a set from the back line over the net.**



**Hunter Ladouceur sets up a possible spike.**

# Boys lacrosse splits Eastern Mass. games



Sean Murphy gets a push on his opponent.



Ryan Purchas looks to make a long pass.



Matthew Beaudin winds up for a shot.

WILBRAHAM – Last week, the Minnechaug Regional High School boys lacrosse team faced two Eastern Mass. teams, losing to Hopkinton 11-7, but breaking

their three-game losing streak and defeating Shrewsbury 8-4 last Friday afternoon. In the victory, Jake Hisgen, Jack Derosia, and Matthew Beaudin had two goals each.

Zach Kozub had 14 saves. The Falcons are 3-3 in the 2024 season.

Turley photos by Sofia DiGrande



Devin Purchas fakes a shot and makes a pass.



Collin Meunier catches a pass.



Matt Noonan takes the shot on goal.

## Gaudette wins Willie Marshall Award

SPRINGFIELD – The American Hockey League announced today that Springfield Thunderbirds forward Adam Gaudette is the 2023-24 recipient of the Willie Marshall Award, given to the league's leading goal scorer.

Gaudette scored a league-best 44 goals in 67 games for the Thunderbirds, surpassing his previous career high of 27 goals set last season and tied for the fourth-most by a Springfield skater in 80 seasons of AHL hockey in the city. He becomes the first Thunderbirds skater ever to claim the award and the first Springfield AHL skater to lead the league in goal-scoring since Michel Picard of the 1990-91 Springfield Indians.

Gaudette added 27 assists to finish third in the AHL scoring race with 71 points and was voted to the AHL's First All-Star Team this season, marking the first time a Thunderbirds player earned such recognition. The sixth-year pro from Braintree, Mass., has 77 goals and 57 assists in 138 AHL games, along with 27 goals and 43 assists in 220 career games in the NHL. Gaudette was originally a fifth-round pick by Vancouver in the 2015 NHL Draft and joined the St. Louis Blues organization via trade from Toronto on Feb. 17, 2023.

The AHL's goal-scoring award was established in 2004 to honor Willie Marshall, the AHL's all-time leader in goals, assists, points, and games played; past winners include Mike Cammalleri (2005), Alexandre Giroux (2009, '10), Tyler Johnson (2013), Frank Vatrano (2016), Carter Verhaeghe (2019) and Stefan Noesen (2022). Other previous yearly goal-scoring leaders include Bryan Hextall (1937), Lou Trudel (1942, '45), Fred Glover (1951), Dunc Fisher (1958), Jimmy Anderson (1961, '64), Yvon Lambert (1973), Gordie Clark (1980), Paul Gardner (1985, '86), Jody Gage (1988) and Brad Smyth (1996, 2001).

## This Week in Rec

### Tennis Everyone!

WILBRAHAM - Greetings Tennis fans of Wilbraham and Hampden! For the past ten years or so I have been fortunate to run Toby's Tennis Clinics through the Wilbraham Parks and Recreation Department. Our spring and fall clinics are designed to introduce tennis through technical development, fun activities, games, and match play. At times we have had a themed based approach to further enhance the clinics and make them a fun way to learn this great game. Some themes have included Davis Cup, Federation Cup, Olympic Games, Team vs Team competitions, and Game Day (Usually the last day of clinics). This year we have seventy students enrolled in our Spring Clinics!

For the past two years, we have introduced a summer Junior Tennis team (Grades 6-12) for players to develop their skills, and become more competitive in

both singles and doubles. This program is also designed to help players get ready to become a participant on a High School tennis team. The Junior Team programs have been a huge success as we had matches against Teams from Ludlow Tennis club. On our last day of Junior Tennis Team last year, many parents competed with their child in many of the activities and games in "Jamboree Day". Some games included Ring-Ring, Around the World, Touch the Fence, Defender, Olympic and many others. It was so much fun to have everyone of all ages involved in the clinic! I look forward to doing it again this year.

Additionally, this summer we are expanding the opportunity for your child to continue developing their game through Toby's Summer Tennis Camp. Below are the dates and times of the camp. Please enroll your son or daughter in Toby's Tennis Camps, it is a great sport, with a rich American history. A sport that requires

not only many physical skills, but also requires many mental skills, helps develop problem solving capabilities, enhances teamwork, but most importantly helps with social skills and sportsmanship. Come out and play one of the greatest sports ever invented!

See You On The Courts!

Toby Coffin

Dennis Van Der Meer-Professional Tennis Registry Certification 2012

Head Boys Varsity Tennis Coach Minnechaug Regional High School

### SUMMER TENNIS PROGRAM 2024

SESSION 1 (4 days)  
DATES: July 1, 2, 3, and 5  
Grades K-1—1-2 PM  
Grades 3-5—2-2:30 PM

SESSION 2  
DATES: July 8-12  
Grades K-1—1-2 PM  
Grades 3-5—2-2:30 PM



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# PUBLIC NOTICES

**Town of Hampden  
Notice of Public Hearing**  
The Hampden Planning Board will hold a Public Hearing on **Wednesday, May 8, at 6:30 PM** in the Town House, 625 Main Street, Hampden, MA on the application of Bedrock Financial, LLC, Al Joyce, for a Special Permit under Section 7.2.4 of the Zoning Bylaws for a sub-standard frontage lot within the R-6 District, Parcel ID 14-10-3 located on Chapin Road (Lot 3) owned by Bedrock Financial LLC Trustee. Information related to this application is on file in the Town Clerk's Office and is available for review by the public during normal business hours. For the Board, Madison Pixley, Chair, of the Hampden Planning Board. Published in the Wilbraham-Hampden Times (April 18 and April 25, 2024). 04/018, 04/25/2024

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
The Trial Court  
Probate and Family Court  
Hampden Probate and Family Court  
50 State Street  
Springfield, MA 01103  
(413)748-7758  
Docket No. HD24C0135CA**  
**In the matter of:  
David Joao Fernandes  
CITATION ON PETITION  
TO CHANGE NAME**  
A Petition to Change Name of Minor has been filed by David Joao Fernandes of Wilbraham, MA requesting that the court enter a Decree changing their name to:

**David Joao Pereira  
IMPORTANT NOTICE**  
Any person may appear for purposes of objecting to the petition by filing an appearance at: **Hampden Probate and Family Court before 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 05/15/2024.**

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

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

Date: April 17, 2024  
**Rosemary A Saccomani**  
Register of Probate  
04/25/2024

**LEGAL NOTICE  
TOWN OF WILBRAHAM  
REQUEST FOR  
QUALIFICATIONS  
DESIGNER SERVICES  
FOR A FIBER OPTIC  
COMMUNICATIONS  
NETWORK**

The Town of Wilbraham, Wilbraham, MA ("the Town"), acting through the Wilbraham Select Board, invites the submission of sealed Requests For Qualifications (RFQ) for Designer Services related to the design of a fiber optic communications network ("Network") that will provide fiber optic access for next generation broadband services using municipal utility and open access models. The Service Area to be designed will include all properties located inside the jurisdictional boundaries of the Town, passing an estimated 6679 households. The RFQ may be obtained via Combuys, and the Town's website at: [www.wilbraham-ma.gov](http://www.wilbraham-ma.gov) ("Government, Bids") and from the Select Board's Office by request to: [nbreault@wilbraham-ma.gov](mailto:nbreault@wilbraham-ma.gov)

RFQ's will be received until 2:00 PM local time, Tuesday, May 7, 2024, in the Wilbraham Town Hall, Select Board Office, 240 Springfield Street, Wilbraham, MA 01095. If the Town Hall is closed due to weather or other emergency, the deadline for receipt of Responses will be extended to the time posted above on the next business day upon which the Town Hall is open. Pursuant to M.G.L. c. 7C, §§44-58, the Town reserves the right to award one or more (1) Contracts, if at all, to the most qualified responsive and responsible Responder who complies with the Response Submission Requirements in Section 4 of the RFQ. The award of any contract pursuant to this RFQ shall be subject to approval by the Select

Board. A contract will be awarded, if at all, on a negotiated basis, with payments for phased milestone deliverables as outlined in the Scope of Work (SOW) with a totaled fee not to exceed four hundred thousand dollars and zero cents (\$400,000.00), subject to negotiation and subject to all procedures outlined in the RFQ, pursuant to M.G.L. c. 7C, §§44-58 and all applicable regulations and guidelines.

All Responses shall comply with the RFQ issued by the Town of Wilbraham. The Town reserves the right to waive any informality in or to reject any, any part of, or all Responses in the best interest of the Town.  
04/18, 04/25/2024

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
The Trial Court  
Probate and Family Court  
Hampden Probate and Family Court  
50 State Street  
Springfield, MA 01103  
(413)748-7758  
Docket No. HD24C0137CA**

**In the matter of:  
Kristen M Hicklen  
CITATION ON PETITION  
TO CHANGE NAME**  
A Petition to Change Name of Minor has been filed by Kristen M Hicklen of Wilbraham, MA requesting that the court enter a Decree changing their name to:

**Anne Elizabeth Hicklen  
IMPORTANT NOTICE**  
Any person may appear for purposes of objecting to the petition by filing an appearance at: **Hampden Probate and Family Court before 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 05/17/2024.**

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

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

Date: April 19, 2024  
**Rosemary A Saccomani**  
Register of Probate  
04/25/2024

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
The Trial Court  
Probate and Family Court  
Hampden Probate and Family Court  
50 State Street  
Springfield, MA 01103  
(413)748-7758  
Docket No. HD24C0134CA**

**In the matter of:  
Lucas Anthony Abel  
Fernandes  
CITATION ON PETITION  
TO CHANGE NAME**  
A Petition to Change Name of Minor has been filed by Lucas Anthony Abel Fernandes of Wilbraham, MA requesting that the court enter a Decree changing their name to:

**Lucas Anthony Pereira  
IMPORTANT NOTICE**  
Any person may appear for purposes of objecting to the petition by filing an appearance at: **Hampden Probate and Family Court before 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 05/15/2024.**

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

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

Date: April 17, 2024  
**Rosemary A Saccomani**  
Register of Probate  
04/25/2024

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
The Trial Court  
Probate and Family Court  
Hampden Probate and Family Court  
50 State Street  
Springfield, MA 01103  
(413)748-7758  
Docket No. HD24P0874EA**

**Estate of:  
Lorraine C Stone  
Date of Death: 03/09/2024  
CITATION ON PETITION  
FOR FORMAL  
ADJUDICATION**

To all interested persons:  
A Petition for Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative has been filed by Denise K Stone of Hampden, 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: **Denise K Stone of Hampden, MA** be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond in **unsupervised administration.**

**IMPORTANT NOTICE**  
You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: **10:00 a.m. on the return day of 05/10/2024.**

This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

**UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)**

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

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

Date: April 19, 2024  
**Rosemary A Saccomani**  
Register of Probate  
04/25/2024

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

## TOWN OF WILBRAHAM POLICE OFFICER

For application and more information please visit [www.wilbraham-ma.gov](http://www.wilbraham-ma.gov). Review of applications begins immediately. Open until filled. EOE

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## REAL ESTATE

### FOR RENT



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

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

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**JOSH ROZELL 413.636.5957**

**SOFTBALL** from page 14

for a few years now,” Queiroga said. “We are thankful to have a really great group of people that are working hard to make this a successful program for the girls in our community. It is so awesome that we were able to celebrate them. Whether they are just beginning in our softball program or they have been a part of it for many years, we re able to really help out and get these girls going with a truly great sport.”

Queiroga then spoke on personal experience, both athletic and parental.

“Softball can do so many things for kids,” Queiroga said. “I know for my own

daughter it has helped so much with her confidence, her ability to make friends, to have fun and it has been such a positive experience for her that I am just happy to be a part of this committee that creates a wonderful environment for our girls.”

Queiroga is a team player, invested in sharing the voices of those who support Wilbraham as much as she does.

“None of this would be possible without the support of our amazing community,” Queiroga said. “Our incredible coaches dedicate their time and their knowledge and their expertise to make this successful program. Our softball families and friends who help us out with our fundraising and



**The Girls' Softball team practices drills for throwing.**

go to our games... they do everything we need them to do to make this a successful program.”

In closing, Queiroga wanted to shout out one more piece of praise for everyone who came out to show their support.

“We have so many people that we reached out to for help on Opening Day,” Queiroga said. “They were so gracious and helpful. Programs like this are only successful when the community is involved and helps each other out. We are really lucky and thankful to have such a strong community that supports these girls and I am really proud to be part of it.”

For more information regarding the Girls softball youth organization, email wilbrahamhampdensoftball@gmail.com.

# Is your bank leaving town?

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