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Meet Brian Domina, Hampden's newest town administrator

By Kristin Rivers Editor krivers@turley.com



Turley photo by Kristin Rivers

Brian Domina at his desk in the town administrator office in Hampden.

HAMPDEN - Brian Domina is hitting the ground running after taking over as town administrator on March

Domina succeeds Bob Markel, who retired after over four years of service to the town.

Domina, who previously served as town administrator in Whately for over seven years, was selected among three candidates by the Board of Selectmen in a unanimous vote on Jan. 29. He, also, previously worked on the Berkshire Regional Planning Board in Pittsfield.

Domina shared he pursued the position as he enjoys working in smaller towns, being able to work on more things and having a more hands-on approach in his role.

"I think Hampden's a great town. It's a small town, but it's a very busy town. There's a lot going on which keeps the job interesting," Domina said.

Domina said he was excited about the opportunity and has had a positive experience so far jumping into the work and collaborating with fellow town departments.

"There are great people that work here. They're very welcoming and everybody's here to do their job," Domina said. "Everyone's been wonderful and supportive. It's been great."

Please see **DOMINA**, page 8



Turley photos by Kristin Rivers

A photo of the billboard unveiled along Route 20 in Wilbraham featuring Jackson Connors and Sadie Slattery to promote the Aug. 9 Golf Tournament supporting Shriners Children's of New England.

Route 20 billboard unveiling honors Wilbraham, Longmeadow residents

By Kristin Rivers Editor

krivers@turley.com

WILBRAHAM - Family and friends gathered along Route 20 on April 19 for the unveiling of a billboard honoring two residents from Wilbraham and Longmeadow.

The residents, Jackson Connors Wilbraham and Sadie Slattery of Longmeadow, are also patients at Shriners Children's of New England and will be recognized as honorees at the 2nd Annual Golf Tournament supporting the organization on Aug. 9.

The event, taking place at Franconia Golf Course, is still looking for foursome teams to join, with tee off at 10 a.m. followed by dinner, raffles and performances by Project 267 at the Elks on Tiffany Street in Springfield.

The dinner event is open to the public and for anyone who wants to check out the band and not do dinner, it's \$10 at the gate.

To sign up, visit ma-cthomes. com and click the 'Golf Event' tab. As the billboard was unveiled,

the children reacted with shock and excitement to see their faces on the billboard for everyone driving along Route 20 to see.

"It was really cool. It's an honor," Connors said.

"I think it's pretty cool because everybody can see it and then, hopefully, we can get more people to raise awareness," Slattery said.

Connors and Slattery were happy to have the community support at the unveiling.

"It means a lot because family

Please see **BILLBOARD**, page 12

School Committee discusses mismatched town warrant concerns

By Kristin Rivers Editor krivers@turlev.com

WILBRAHAM - Concerns over mismatched town warrant numbers for the School Committee budget led to discussions of how to proceed on April 25.

The discussion arose during updates from the Finance and Operations Subcommittee, with Superintendent Dr. John Provost explaining they were advised by the town council that the Finance Committee's "figure will be the one published on the warrant, but the town will reference" the school district's figure in an explanation statement under the warrant article.

After questions about wheth-

er the discussion met the criteria for taking place in an executive session due to a private memo, Provost didn't believe so.

"Aaron (Osborne) and I had a conversation about that. That one is usually thought of as contract negotiations or those types of negotiations," Provost said.

Vice Chair Sean Kennedy expressed discomfort at what was transpiring.

'The number that we came up with when we presented to the town, us duly elected by the citizens of Hampden and Wilbraham, have been usurped by people who have been appointed in Wilbraham, so that their number is going up," Kennedy said.

Kennedy said he would talk with Town Clerk Carole Tardif the next day for her recommendations.

"I didn't ever get a copy of their budget on how they're proceeding to do with this. I just got a final number, so if the town wanted to send us a budget, their budget, for what the School Committee should be, I'd be really happy to see that," Kennedy said.

He then suggested scheduling a special meeting with the Finance Committee on this and making a decision on how to handle the Annual Town Meeting for Wilbraham.

Michael Tirabassi suggested waiting to discuss their strategy as "it might differ depending on what Hampden does at their town meeting."

"We might want to wait to discuss what our strategy is be-



cause if Hampden chooses not to support the assessment, then that's a different situation than if Hampden has chosen to support the assessment," Tirabassi said.

Kennedy stressed Hampden "does not have to support our assessment" and also suggested the committee speak with their

Please see **SCHOOL**, page 8



Jason Arnold, professional percussionist and faculty member at the Community Music School of Springfield, leads students during the African Drumming class at the Hampden Senior Center.



Turley photos by Alisiana Marshall

May 2, 2024

Attendees bang their djembe drums to the rhythm during the African Drumming class at the Hampden Senior Center on April 26.

African Drumming unites seniors

By Alisiana Marshall Correspondent

HAMPDEN – Happy to see and greet each other, smiling faces gathered around the senior center activity room on April 26 for African Drumming with Jason

Some brought their instrument in carrying cases, others their willingness to learn and laugh.

The group's excitement was clear even before their instructor Jason Arnold, professional percussionist and faculty member at the Community Music School of Springfield, appeared with a wide smile, jolly tone, and enough traditional African djembe drums to go around.

"It's a drum they use in Africa when they're doing traditional dances and things like that, just to celebrate," Arnold said.

Helpful hands clamored to assist with bringing in and passing out the knee-high multi-colored drums to students new and returning.

The first class of the new



Jason Arnold, professional percussionist and faculty member at the Community Music School of Springfield, holds his hands up as he instructs during the African Drumming class at the Hampden Senior Center.

12-week session, composed of elders and middle-aged music lovers, chatted excitedly about the last time they were all together — their last concert performance on April 5. Even with a rapport of several months built up, newcomers were brought into the fold with ease and warm welcomes.

"We're just having fun playing rhythms, and I'm showing them some slaps so they can have a good time," said Arnold.

With his back to the wall and a djembe cradled between his knees, Arnold welcomed everyone to the class and explained djembe basics. There are three different areas to hit on the drum



Attendees smile and drum along during the African Drumming class at the Hampden Senior Center on April 26.

that make a distinct tone, the drum is held between the knees at a tilt so each beat can be resonant and ring wearers were advised to slide their jewelry off prior to playing.

With Arnold leading, the class took a step-by-step approach to building a classic reggae rhythm.

Once the counts were established and hand placements fine-

tuned, what ensued was a heartwarming display of music's power to bring people together.

Laughter and infectious drum tones bounced off the lilac-colored walls, and emphatic drum rolls swelled and floated up to the convex ceiling.

Arnold sees the positive impact the weekly drum sessions have on attendees.

"To me, especially for this generation of people, I think it's great because they're having a good time. At first, I thought it was going to be rough on them because they have to use their hands and a lot of people have arthritis, but they love it," Arnold said. "They come every

week and they bond with each other, a couple of them even get together and come to my gigs to see me. They're interested in just being together and this is bringing them together."

In a grand display of rhythm and joy, Arnold ended the class with "drum circle" — a grand exit. Each group member played a drum beat of their own creation and practiced following Arnold's band-leading calls.

"Do your own thing," "Reggaeton," and "Hit me" were just a few of the cues that the group was able to accurately respond to after fifty minutes of instruction.

One Enfield resident explained why she returned for another session under Arnold's instruction.

"The drum classes are really cool because you kind of get into this meditative relaxing state and our teacher is really amazing, Jason. He doesn't make you feel like 'I don't know what I'm doing. Oh, I feel stupid.' And the people here have really good energy, very positive," she said.

The 12-week session, "African Drumming" with Jason, began April 26 and will run through July 26. There will be no class on May 31 and July 5.

Classes are held on Friday afternoons from 2:15 to 3:15 p.m. at the Hampden Senior Center on Allen Street. You may choose to pay for the session in full or pay \$6 per class.

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Hampden Selectmen discuss whether Main Street bridge needs repairs or replacement

By Dalton Zbierski Correspondent

HAMPDEN - The Board of Selectmen began its April 29 meeting by weighing the future of the Main Street

On one hand, the town could repair it. On the other, the bridge could be replaced in its entirety.

Steven J. Tyler, P.E., associate principal of the firm Howard Stein Hudson, joined the meeting first. Tyler has over 30 years of consulting and municipal public works experiences, including contributing to civil engineering and transportation projects.

Monday marked Tyler's second quarterly appearance of the year. He previously spoke with the board on Jan. 29 regarding how Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Action Grant funds could be used to replace the Main Street bridge.

The project would mitigate hazardous flooding and positively impact the surrounding environment.

On Monday, Tyler updated the board on how the process is unfolding. He said the bridge design is nearly complete and that HSH received comments about the design and is in the process of addressing them.

"Our bridge permitting documents, we're nearly wrapping those up. We're planning on submitting those by May 10," Tyler said.

The range of permitting documents will be reviewed by numerous entities, including the Hampden Conservation Commission, the state's Division of Fisheries and Wildlife, the state's Historical Commission, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and MassDOT.

When Tyler finished his presentation, Selectman John Flynn asked him what the town's obligation is to replace the bridge instead of repair it. He said multiple bridges in town must be replaced, and the state has been quiet about the replacement of the Main Street Bridge compared to others.

Flynn said he knows that the goal is to mitigate the potential for hazardous flooding that the town observed in 2005 and 1955 and that Hampden must do something about the "narrowing" of the Main Street bridge, but he questioned if doing more than that is the right move, especially considering the state of other bridges.



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"We were notified by the state that there was some repair needed on the bridge," Flynn said. "The state never said the bridge needed to be replaced like they told us with Rock-A-Dundee and the South Road Ballard Brook Bridge, which they're pretty emphatic need replacement. This one, they've told us needs repairing."

Tyler responded, saying that Hampden isn't obligated to do anything and acknowledged the Main Street Bridge has a substructure that could be reused. He said the town could do a repair at any point, but the grant funding HSH is working to secure can only be applied to a replacement project.

"(Doing repairs) does not alleviate the concern with the potential flooding and the constricted waterway," Tyler said. "Obviously, this is an avenue where we advised, and the town elected to pursue to try to get funding for a replacement structure. The key element to that is all of the grants that have been awarded in the pursuit of this structure all require replacement."

Tyler said that Hampden has already started trying to take advantage of grant opportunities to get a new bridge. He said that does not obligate the town to take that path if funding falls through, but he expects that MassDOT would offer Hampden

He said the town must work with the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission, and that MassDOT will know the town is ready when it makes its Chapter 85 submission in May.

We'll see where this design is at. and they can start considering that in both District 2 and in Boston, and it's just a matter of pushing those buttons to get them to program the structure. I feel like you have a very good chance of that occurring," Tyler said.

Flynn noted that Tyler was making a valid point about staying ahead of hazardous mitigations, but the board must think about the present as well.

"This is something to look at, but us as a board have to balance the cost of replacement versus repair," Flynn

Flynn noted that they've had over a dozen meetings combined when speaking about the Rock-A-Dundee Bridge and the bridge on South Road.

"Just to say, we've had 10 meetings on Rock-A-Dundee with 40 engineers from the state. They are pushing it hard. Mark has had 10 meetings on South Road with their engineering staff because they're pushing that hard. But they're not pushing us on this one because they think it can be repaired," Flynn said.

Tyler said he understood where Flynn was coming from and acknowledged that the South Street bridge is in tough shape. However, HSH will continue working with the town, pursuing the chance to make a bridge replacement on Main Street a reality. Tyler described upcoming opportunities for the town to engage him and his team.

"Our remaining community outreach meetings, we have one date with two back-to-back meetings," Tyler said. "They are on May 16 at the Town House Auditorium. That first part of that meeting will be a green infrastructure presentation by the Conway School students. That will be followed by HSH and the team doing a bridge design review meeting."

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avocado

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Conway School partnering with Hampden on green infrastructure projects

By Kristin Rivers Editor krivers@turley.com

HAMPDEN - The Conway School of Landscape Design is partnering with the town on projects to enhance Hampden's resiliency to climate change impacts.

The projects include planning, designing and developing sites for green infrastructure solutions, a bridge replacement project for the Main Street bridge and addressing flooding concerns for the East Brook area.

They are being supported as part of the Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness grant program, providing support for cities and towns to begin planning climate change resiliency and develop priority projects.

After their meeting in the Town House Auditorium, the team ventured out for site visits.

Nate Card and Lyon Waxman are graduate students at the Conway School, with Waxman explaining this is their third project of the term before graduation.

"The town has identified some climate-related issues specifically due to flooding and this project is dealing with and working on--together with the bridge replacement--identifying areas that there could be infrastructure solutions to mitigating those flooding issues around a few sites in the town," Waxman said.

Ted Zebert, co-chair of the



From the left, Chris Lyman, staff civil engineer at Howard Stein Hudson Engineering, Mark Langone, highway superintendent for the Town of Hampden, Tom Lautzenheiser, senior conservation ecologist with the Mass Audubon Society, Ted Zebert, co-chair of the Conservation Commission, Nate Card and Lyon Waxman, graduate students at the Conway School of Landscape Design, in a group photo ahead of their site visits on April 10.

Conservation Commission, is a longtime resident and has been involved with environmental issues for many years.

Zebert shared how upstream from the Main Street Bridge has been a source of flooding in the

"So, it's a continuing event that doesn't go away. Going downstream from there, it all feeds into the Scantic (River), which is a cold-water fisheries brook, it's a very important river. It feeds into the Connecticut River and from the Connecticut River it feeds into Long Island Sound," Zebert said.

Zebert added how the stormwater's natural buffers to rivers and streams have been taken away due to paving and building houses, so working on a project with Conway School is import-

"So, anything we can do to enhance the natural buffers to help control stormwater such as



Tom Lautzenheiser, senior conservation ecologist with the Mass Audubon Society, Chris Lyman, staff civil engineer at Howard Stein Hudson Engineering, Nate Card and Lyon Waxman, graduate students at the Conway School of Landscape Design, and Mark Langone, highway superintendent for the Town of Hampden, during a site visit at the Laughing Brook Wildlife Sanctuary.

some green project by them will help us in the long run," Zebert

Mark Langone, the town's highway superintendent, said the culvert at the intersection of Glendale Road and Ridge was, also, one of the three prioritization areas identified in the assessment.

Langone shared a story of flooding that occurred in February 2019.

"We had some warm weather

which created an early thaw and, also, severe rainstorm which, when added together, created a significant amount of water which the culvert

at the intersection of Glendale Road and Ridge Road was not able to handle," Langone said. "(We're) looking at possibilities of alleviating flooding and also introducing green infrastructure to also help filtrate that water as it enters our rivers and brooks."

Chris Lyman, staff civil engineer at Howard Stein Hudson Engineering, shared how they began working with the town in 2022 on a prioritization plan for their culverts in finding places to potentially put green infrastructure. From there, a prioritization list of locations was put together, with one of them, also, adjacent to Mass Audubon property.

Lyman stressed the impor-

Please see **PROJECT**, page 19





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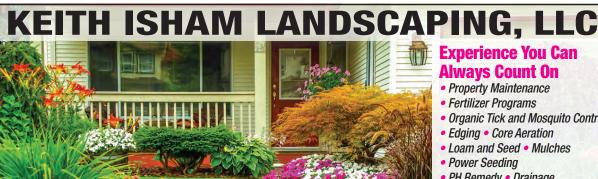
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VIEWPOINTS

Mary McCarthy for Planning Board

To the Editor:

Mary McCarthy and her family have lived in Wilbraham for over 25 years, and she has been very active in the community through local business, volunteer work, serving on non-profit boards, and as an elected official. Mary's love of horses and other animals has always made her a strong advocate to maintain and to secure open spaces in our town. All of the recent concerns about solar farms, strip cutting, and deforestation have help inspire Mary to run for the planning board.

Before moving to Wilbraham, she saw her small town lose much of its attractiveness and saw decreased land values as politicians and developers made bad decisions. On the Wilbraham Planning Board, Mary will use her strong community interest and passion to maintain the beauty and charm of Wilbraham, and work to prevent any attempts towards overdevelopment. I believe that she will utilize her business experience, knowledge of economic and smart development issues and strategic planning skills to help enhance our property values, avoid unnecessary tax increases and protect public safety.

Jack Luttrell

Wilbraham Planning Board Member

Letters to the Editor

Vote 'No' on Hampden Senior Center expansion

To the Editor:

As memory serves, the original grant for the building we call the Senior Center came with the requirement that the building be used for a Senior Center for the first five years and thereafter a Community Center. Not a secret, but not shared with many. You will not find it mentioned in the report from the expansion committee or in the override proposition at the ballot box. Try the Town website for an explanation or a set of the rules for use, activities. Or who is responsible for the 'Center'. The proposed expansion contains a generous allocation of space for 'senior' activities and allotted space but nothing for the rest of the Town. The proposal was submitted by The Senior Center Building Committee. Feel left out? I will just urge voters to say No at the Town Meeting on May 13 and at the override at the ballot box May 20. It can always be reworked and submitted at a later meeting. It's your town, take charge.

Austin McKeon, Hampden

Vote 'Yes' on Hampden Senior Center Expansion

To the Editor:

In a recent letter to the editor regarding the Hampden Senior Center project there was an error with statistical data reported. To clarify, the total number of older adults in the town of Hampden, based on the 2020 Census is 1,789*. This total represents 36% of the population of the town of Hampden. During this current fiscal year 1,008 Hampden residents** are actively participating in programs and services at the Senior Center. Thus, 56% of the older adult population and 20% of the total town population are actively involved with the Senior Center. The Friends of Hampden Senior Citizens supports the Senior Center in its request for a renovation/ addition and the Friends are committed to assisting in further fundraising to meet this goal. We appreciate your support of this very important project.

* from the US Census Bureau 2020 data ** Senior Center data gathered with assistance from Senior Center staff from My Senior Center program, the Senior Center database.

Bobbi Grant, Hampden

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When should we claim Social Security?



Dear Rusty

I am almost 63 and my husband will be 61 soon and we are looking to see when our best time would be to start our Social Security benefits

We would like to know if one of us qualifies for benefits from a previous marriage from 1984 to 1995. And we are wondering if I can start drawing at age 65, in two years or if it is better that I wait until 67 because my spouse is two years younger than me. Also, if I were to continue working limited hours after 65, what would my earning limit be?

Signed Almost Ready

Dear Almost Ready

The first thing to understand is that Full Retirement Age for both of you is 67. If either of you claim before that, your monthly benefit amount will be permanently reduced and, because you are working, you will be subject to Social Security's "earnings test."

If you claim your benefit at age 65 your monthly payment will be about 87% of what you would get if you claimed at age 67. If your husband claims at age 62, his benefit will be about 70% of his FRA amount.

The only way to get 100% of the benefit you've each earned from a lifetime of working is to claim at your FRA. You can choose to claim at age 65 as long as you're comfortable with the benefit reduction which will occur and as long as your annual work earnings do not significantly exceed the earnings limit for that year. In any case, when each of you claims will not affect the other's retirement benefit amount.

Social Security's "earnings test" for those claiming before FRA sets a limit for how much can be earned before some or all benefits are taken away. The earnings limit for 2024 is \$22,320, but it changes yearly. If you claim early benefits and your work earnings exceed that year's limit, Social Security will take away \$1 in benefits for every \$2 you are over the limit.

They take away by withholding future benefits long enough to recover what you owe for exceeding the limit. If you significantly exceed the annual earnings limit, you may be temporarily ineligible to receive SS benefits until you either earn less or reach your FRA.

The earnings test no longer applies after you reach your FRA. I cannot predict what the earnings limit will be two years from now, but it will be more than the 2024 limit and published at that time. FYI, in the year you turn 67 your pre-FRA earnings limit will be much higher and when you reach your FRA the earnings test no longer applies.

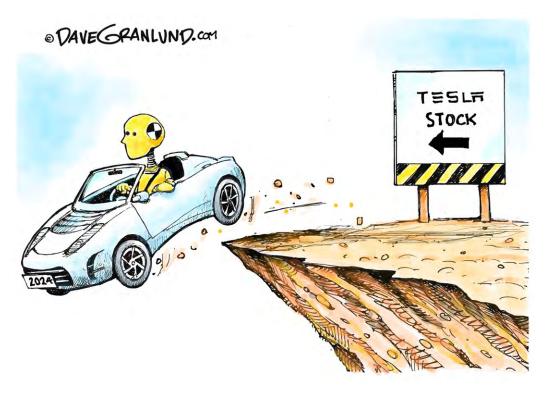
Regarding your previous marriage, you cannot receive spousal benefits from an exspouse while you are currently married. But when to claim may also be influenced by whether either you or your current spouse will get a spousal benefit from the other. If the FRA (age 67) benefit amount for one of you is more than twice the other's FRA entitlement, the one with the lower FRA amount will get a "spousal boost" to their own amount when both of you are collecting.

Spouse benefits reach maximum at one's FRA, but each person's personal SS retirement amount will continue to grow if not claimed at FRA. Waiting past FRA to claim allows the SS retirement benefit to grow by 8% per year, up

to age 70

So, with an FRA of 67, claiming at age 70 will yield a payment 24% higher than the FRA amount, 76% more than the age 62 amount and about 37% more than the age 65 amount. But waiting beyond FRA is only smart if financially feasible and life expectancy is at least average about 84 and 87 respectively for a man and woman your current ages. And, as a general rule, if one's spousal benefit at FRA (50% of their partner's FRA entitlement) is highest, then that spouse should claim at FRA to get their maximum benefit.

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



Editorial Policy

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

Correction Policy

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

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

Broadband Committee meets with Select Board on budget request

Also, note on this week's public hearings

> **By Kristin Rivers** Editor krivers@turley.com

WILBRAHAM - Members of the Broadband Committee met with the Select Board on April 29 to discuss a budget request for their committee.

Chairman Tom Newton was joined by Matt Nelson, a committee member, for the discus-

Newton explained how the committee is in a different place since submitting their initial budget request a year prior, having now picked a provider with EntryPoint Networks and planning a target date of October for a Special Town Meeting to present their plans to residents, with hopes to continue forward.

The main focus of their visit was on marketing.

With that said, our mindset and our sort of direction in terms of marketing has changed dramatically from where it was when we submitted that plan,to

the effect of that we're not actually sure what we need at this point in time," Newton said.

Newton said the committee needs a budget and an idea of how much they can spend on advertising, branding and more.

Nelson added there is, also, an awareness issue.

"Whether it's a bumper sticker, whether it's a pen, whether it's a brochure, it builds that awareness, it builds that ROI, so when we go to that fall meeting, and this entity that was in Hampden shows up, we've got an educated population that knows, 'Oh yeah, I remember what that's about and I know why that's different than what happened in Hampden," Nelson said.

Newton stressed the importance of getting ahead of what happened in Hampden and making sure the word gets out at any events the committee will be at this coming summer.

"I really think, at this point, the clock is ticking. October's coming up fast and we need to prepare for that meeting," Newton said.

Select Board member Michael Squindo agreed with Newton on supporting the program, asking Town Administrator Nick Breault about the Facebook page

Breault said this.

"It's an issue that our IT director has looked into and it is not one that we can easily or in action, in practice, get it issued in a manner that would be effective for the committee to have it." Breault said.

After discussing Constant Contact as an option to connect with and reach out to residents, Squindo still stressed how the project is a municipal project as opposed to a retail project, a term Newton said earlier.

"There's still a municipal obligation that you need to fund it appropriately, and I think therein lies the challenge," Squindo said.

Nelson said he could put together a spreadsheet, cut the marketing items in half and re-

"Everybody's got an opinion on what works and what doesn't work with marketing, To Tom's point, I think there needs to be certain aspects of a retail mentality is. Again, I understand completely on the municipal budget,"

Nelson said. "We need to bring people to the table and if we pinch pennies now, then we're going to end up with a situation where the broadband doesn't do what we want it to do."

Sue Bunnell shared as the liaison to the Broadband Committee and having attended most of their meetings, there is a question of bank for the buck and opportunity that makes sense.

Bunnell agreed how having EntryPoint and their marketing person changes the game, adding how lawn signs have gotten the word out in other communities about similar providers.

"Maybe there's another tier and I'm curious to get some models and information directly from them on what other communities have done," Bunnell said.

Chairman Theresa Goodrich later suggested informational cards with QR codes for people to scan could bring information right to them, sharing how a similar card she got brought up a website and information.

'That's what's going to get people in town," Goodrich said.

Goodrich added business support as another angle.

There are businesses in town that would love to help support this project because it's going to help their business tremendously to have this, so that is a key element," Goodrich said.

The discussion concluded when Goodrich said the committee has the Select Board's full support.

No vote or motion was presented as discussions will continue.

Another item to note is two public hearings with Scantic River Brewery LLC for a new annual liquor license and farmer series pouring permit (malt only) for a Sec. 19C license holder and Pafumi's for an annual Monday through Saturday entertainment license and annual Sunday entertainment license, respectively.

Due to audio issues for residents viewing the first hearing online, significant public input and wanting time to review, the board postponed and continued the hearings to May 6.

More on these hearings and their outcomes next week.

Teen Mystery Room at WPL

WILBRAHAM - The Teen Department at the Wilbraham Public Library announces "Teen Mystery Room: The Unfortunate Passing of Pliant McTwist" on Tuesday, May 7 from 5:30 - 6:30 pm. Similar to an escape room, in this mystery room teens will work together using clues, puzzles and riddles to solve a crime. Working in teams, the teens have just 1 hour to interrogate all the suspects, beat them at their own games, and sift through all the evidence to figure out who is responsible, how they did it and why! Be the first teen team to finish and be promoted to Detective and earn your badge!

This program is for Grades 6-12 and sponsored by the Wilbraham Friends of the Library. Online registration is required as space is limited. Sign up as a team of up to 3 teens; solo registrants will be put on a team. Register at www.wilbrahamlibrary.org, "Teens", "Event Calendar" or call the library at 413-596-6141.

All Creatures Great and Small takes place May 4

HAMPDEN - The Federated Community Church is hosting an All Creatures Great and Small event on May 4 from 1 to 3 p.m.

At 1 p.m., there will be K-9 Unit demonstrations from the Ludlow Sheriff's Department and the State Police, followed by a Blessing of the Animals at 2 p.m.

All dogs must be leashed.

To learn more, contact the church at 413-596-3711.



ERRORS: Each advertiser is requested to check their advertisement error in an advertisement to a greater extent than the cost of the space occupied by the item in the advertisement.

to the editor welcome

Election letters

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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the first time it appears. This paper will not be responsible for more than one corrected insertion, nor will be liable for any

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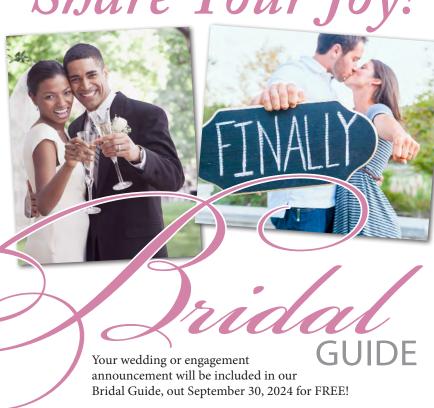
Wilbraham Lions May 21

WILBRAHAM - There will be a dine-out event to

Krazy Jake's is located at 2537 Boston Rd. in Wil-

benefie the Wilbraham Lions at Krazy Jake's on May 21.

Wedding or Engagement Share Your



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Be sure to include a high resolution, clear photograph for printing.

OBITUARIES

Death **Notices**

Robert Leo Quintin Died April 5, 2024 A celebration of life is planned for September 29, 2024

Wilbraham-Hampden Times OBITUARY POLICY

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries.

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

The other is a Paid **Obituary**, costing \$225, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice and may include a photograph.

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

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Wilbraham Hampden **Times**

Robert Lee Quintin 1948-2024

Robert Leo Quintin passed away peacefully and bravely on April 5, 2024 surrounded by his four loving children.

Robert (Bob) was born in Springfield, MA on April 25, 1949 and graduated from Classical High School. He attended Jones College in Florida and Western New England College for his MBA.

Bob began his career at Ford Motor Company then FLEXcon as the Director of Information Technology. He was also an adjunct professor for University of Phoenix and Holyoke Community College. In his younger years

he worked at Danny Seagrill and often shared fond memories from his time there.

Bob served the town of Wilbraham for over 20 years as Chair of the Capital Planning Committee and Finance Committee. Bob spent a majority of his life in Wilbraham before moving to Merritt Island, FL in 2013 for his much earned retirement.

Bob embraced his nickname, "BBQ" for Big Bobby Quintin. He was larger than life with a heart of gold. He loved many things including family vacations to Cape Cod and Florida. He had a passion for golfing and was a longtime member of the Wilbraham Country Club, where he got a hole in one! He was a huge fan of sports, especially the Boston Red Sox. He was also an active parishioner of Georgianna United Methodist in Merritt Island.

Bob was preceded by his mother and father, Leo and Alice Quintin of Springfield and his sister Linda Quintin of West Springfield.

He is preceded by his wife since 1978, Lynne Quintin who passed in 2021. Lynne and Bob were the epitome of true love. Set up on a blind date in 1977, they were a model couple and enjoyed doing everything together as a team. They will now finally be together in eternity.

His greatest joy was the close-knit family that he created with Lynne. He was always so loving and so supportive to each of his four children: Emily Quintin Carlson and her husband Scott of Longmeadow, MA, Elizabeth Quintin Hanks and her husband Kevin of Wilbraham, MA, Chandler Quintin and his wife Alaina of Central Falls, RI, and Audra Quintin Thompson and her husband Kyle of Palm Bay, FL.

Bob was a tremendous father and had the best sense of humor. He always went above and beyond to make sure each of his children felt special. He took great interest in supporting their colleges and passions.

In addition to his children, Bob adored his grandchildren and was the best Papa. He will be missed deeply by each of them: Carter Hanks, Ruby Hanks, Sawyer Hanks, Quintin Carlson and Beckham Carlson. Family was everything to Bob.

We would like to thank East Village Place, his Baystate Medical care team and Baystate Hospice for their tremendous support and loving care.

Bob would always tell his four kids that they were his favorite, turns out, he was our favorite too.

A celebration of life is planned for September 29, 2024 at Wilbraham Country Club. Please head to www.bob-and-lynne.com to RSVP.



SCHOOL from page 1

"They can say they agree with it or disagree with it, but this is a new thing where they're (Wilbraham Finance Committee) writing their own budget and saying this is the number that they're putting forward. It's Hampden saying they're going to go with their number rather than voting yea or nay for our number," Kennedy said.

Tirabassi also suggested holding a meeting a week before town meeting.

"If the warrant actually ends up getting printed as we've been told it's going to be, there's no question about the fact that it is extremely misleading to the people that will be attending town meeting,' Tirabassi said. "So, I think it would be in order for us to go on and educate the town campaign on by all social and written media available to us during the week before town meeting."

William Bontempi, after receiving clarification from Kennedy on the numbers, said "The warrants are mismatched."

"What I'm saying is that the assessments between the two towns have a certain percentage threshold that they have to reach, so what I'm saying (when) there's a mismatch is because Wilbraham's number, it does not match percentage totals of the student population based on our SIMS data," Bontempi said.

Bontempi also expressed concern, adding it's a situation where you have to get the town council involved.

"Because now we're in violation of the regional agreement because now we are asking a number from Wilbraham that's a number that is a percentage, a certain percentage lower, than what the School Committee had proposed and had voted on, and so Hampden's number is higher," Bontempi said.

Kennedy clarified the number Hampden will be voting on is higher and the committee will see if their attorneys can resolve the issue beforehand, do an executive or open session and then steps or recommendations from Tardif.

Bontempi then asked, "How did this happen?"

'So, we submitted our assessment letters to the towns...that vote from the School Committee is the binding number that should be placed on the warrant. There's no ambiguity about that," Bontempi said.

After Kennedy said how "he's never seen this before," Provost shared he was, also, unsure what happened.

"Assessment letters went out and then we received an email saying the number is not going to be the number that's reflected in the assessment letter," Provost said. "No communication or any process that we're aware of between those two events.

Aaron Osborne, assistant superintendent for finance, operations and human resources, offered his perspective.

'My experience has been that in most regional districts, even if the town wanted to propose a different number or something like that, the School Committee's number would be the primary number on there, right? Again, they could go down," Osborne said. "I think the interesting thing that John and I talked about is that I don't think voters would know that a yes vote means that the school budget fails and that throws a whole chain of events that, again, if the School Committee stands behind the budget it means the town then has to schedule another special town meeting at an expense to the town."

After Rich Rediker asked "if this has ever been done in the last 30 years," Kennedy replied he could not ever recall a time when the Finance Committee changed the number that was given.

"They could either approve or not approve, that was all that Finance could do," Kennedy said.

Bontempi added the whole idea behind the assessment is that "the school district, the School Committee, has the legal authority to present the article for the warrant."

'That's our job. That's one of the three enumerated powers of the School Committee is to set the budget. So, having that number replaced with a lower number runs afoul of state law," Bontempi said.

Bontempi said his bigger question, however, concerns legality.

"Now you've got, like I said, a mismatched warrant because Hampden's going into a town meeting which is asking for a particular number which is no longer in line with what the regional agreement requires us to do in terms of assessments, which is splitting it based on the student population," Bontempi said. "If we kept the Finance Committee number where it is, then Hampden voters are approving a budget number that would be larger than what their responsibility is."

Another concern Bontempi had was how there was no discussion with Hampden about this.

"At least, if it was coordination between the Finance Committee in Wilbraham and Advisory (Committee) in Hampden to say, 'All right, we're going to lower this number and so proportionately, this is what the number is going to be,' and if Hampden Advisory had done that, at least it would have shown some degree of coordination, but this shows just a unilateral effort on the part of the Finance Committee," Bontempi said.

Tirabassi said he's also concerned about the financial stability of the school district in terms of unexpected expenses, citing an email received that day about a budget shortfall for the boiler and funds, including the Minnechaug Stabilization Fund, being nearly spent out.

"I don't think they appreciate how down to the wire we really are," Tirabassi said. "For me, and I think for everyone here on the committee, we have the kids close to our hearts and we want what's right for the kids and, if money runs out, and then the kids suffer, none of us want to see that happen. So, makes a scary sit-

Bontempi agreed, adding how much the situation would cost the committee in terms of legal fees and that money would come from their budget.

"The organization that's supposed to be the steward of the finances of the town is basically putting us in a position where now we need to expend even more money on legal expenses to be able to unravel this because this is a mess," Bontempi

After Kennedy reiterated the next steps, Chair Michal Boudreau said a future meeting would be scheduled as need-

DOMINA from page 1

Domina's goals in his first six months include finishing the budget process and preparation for the upcoming Annual Town Meeting, the upcoming town election and educating himself on what's going on in town, including projects.

"After the town meeting, my goal is to do more reaching out to the various boards and committees and departments in figuring out what their goals and objectives are. Because they all have different ones, right? They all have different work that

they're doing, they all have different needs and they all have different challenges," Domina said. "Although they're in the same community, their needs are different and how to support those departments, I need to better understand how I can support them to do their job."

As town administrator, Domina stressed the importance of helping the town government function and serving as a facilitator for the Selectmen, town departments and residents, which is another goal he hopes to accomplish.

He added he has an opendoor policy for residents.

'We're here for the residents. We're here for them and to provide services to them," Domina said.

Reflecting on his career as a whole, Domina said the greatest lesson he learned was about not taking things personally and making sure residents are heard.

"Our role is to make the best recommendation that we can, but it's up to the people who live here to make the ultimate decision because this is their town. It's not my town. I'm here to

help, I'm here to make the best recommendation I can. But at the end of the day, it's their choice, it's their town and I'm okay with that," Domina said. "You do your best to bring the best information or recommendation forward and it's their decision and whatever they decide is what we're going to do."

Domina wants the community to know he looks forward to getting to know everyone more and working with them.

His hours are 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Mondays through Thursdays.

Domina encourages residents

to stop by and visit him if they have any questions or concerns, assuring them they are in good hands.

"The people--the elected officials and everybody here--who are running the town, they're all trying to do what's in the best interest of everybody in the town," Domina said. "Running a town or running local government is not easy and especially for elected officials. They do it because they want to do it and they care... everybody here has the best interests of the town for sure.'

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A COMMUNITY GALLERY



Dennis Lopata, who served as chair of the Needs Committee, then the Feasibility Committee greets onlookers at the Ribbon Cutting of the new building April 20.





Schmoozing (Karen Furst, S



Enjoying the cozy fireplace on the first floor were Laura Dennis (left) and Tracey Perry of Country Bank (right).

Linda and Steve Cooper each had a role in supporting the new senior center. Linda Served on the Building Committee and authored "Aging Well in Wilbraham" articles in the Times. Steve was a busy member of the **Capital Campaign** Committee.



The Multipurp gathered to h



Chatting with Wilbraham-Hampden Times Editor Kristin Rivers are Wilbraham Town Administrator Nick Breault and Senior Center Dir. Paula Dubord. Mike Belsky looks on.



Carol Fountain takes a break by the fireplace during the Major Donor Reception.



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LBRAHAM MPDEN



luring the cocktail hour were friends (from left) Ruth Karlson, Ken and Stephen Brand and Patti Hallberg.



ose Room at the new senior center saw its first sell-out as many folks ear greetings from officials. Enjoying refreshments were Marianne nd friend Lisa Coolidge.



When Wilbraham Select Board Chairperson Terry Goodrich greeted the crowd during April 19 festivities, she said, "I can't wait to be old enough to visit this great building!"

Town Administrator Nick Breault and Select Board member Sue Bunnell celebrate the opening of the new building.



Friends of Wilbraham Seniors corresponding secretary Dee Mitchell, holding the "Party Time" sign, and her friends (left to right), Daryl Peck, Dina Graziano, (Dee) and Mark Graziano, get their photo taken at the Major Donor Reception April 19.

Wilbraham thanks new senior center donors at Major Donor Reception

Times photos by Charles F. Bennett

The Friends of Wilbraham Seniors held their Major Donor Reception April 19 to thank businesses and individuals for their generosity in the supporting of the new Wilbraham Senior Center Building. Matt Villamaino, president of the Friends Board of Directors and Capital Campaign Committee and Paula Dubord, director of elder affairs, thanked everyone who worked so hard since 2010 to make the building a reality.

On April 20 and 21 the public was introduced to the state-of-the art building and toured the facilities.



Friends of Wilbraham Seniors President Matt Villamaino and wife Jane greet visitors to the Major Donor Reception April 19.

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Jamila Jones of Onome Oko stands beside her table which teaches children how to grow their own plants and eat organically.



Hadley Goff paints Javiyan's face during Healthy Kids Day at the Scantic Valley YMCA.



Steve, Sky, and baby Cole Willet play on musical instruments from Falcetti School of Music during Healthy Kids Day at the Scantic Valley YMCA.

Scantic Valley YMCA celebrates Healthy Kids Day

By Noelle Hisgen Correspondent

WILBRAHAM - The Scantic Valley YMCA hosted their annual Healthy Kids Day on April 20, providing a source of information, entertainment and fun for everyone.

Debbie Kelder, the executive director at the Scantic Valley YMCA, was ecstatic about the

day.
"Healthy Kids Day is YM-CA's national initiative where we want to celebrate kids being kids," Kelder said. "And especially as we're going into the summer months where it may not be as structured, we want to give them tools and resources to stay physically and mentally ac-

She deeply expressed the importance of why Wilbraham has events such as Healthy Kids Day.

"This is a free community-wide event. Everyone and anyone is welcome to come. So, we like being open so that not just members get to come here, but everybody from the community," Kelder said. "We also show them what we offer here for children's programming which might be sports programming, swim lessons and just other ways for families to come in together and do healthy activities such as playing basketball or swimming."

Healthy Kids Day was filled with vendors introducing children to new ways to give back to the community, making healthy snacks and ways to have fun over the summer, including Falcetti School of Music, the Springfield Symphony Orchestra, the police and fire departments, students from Springfield College and

Élisha Wink, a student at Springfield College, further discussed what Healthy Kids Day meant to her and other students at her school as well as also being a part of the Y Club on her

"I think events like these really help to bring the community together. I've worked with the YMCA of Greater Springfield for about a year now and I think I've seen a lot of community growth and it kind of just pushes people to think more about our youth and especially events

like Healthy Kids Day pushing the younger generation to think more about their future," Wink said.

While the children had fun with games and crafts, they also learned about seed planting from educational groups Generational Seeds and Onome Oko.

Generational Seeds, founded by Jamila Jones, is a nonprofit that considers education as separate from the school environment and teaches children about various forms of offerings in nature and urban farming while

Please see **HEALTHY**, page 13



A group photo with Jackson Connors, Alyssa Stout, office & finance administrator at Brenda Cuoco Real Estate Brokerage, Madison Degnan, marketing & listing coordinator at Brenda Cuoco Real Estate Brokerage, Sadie Slattery and Brenda Cuoco, broker/owner at Brenda Cuoco & Associates Real Estate Brokerage, after the billboard unveiling on Route 20.



Turley photos by Kristin Rivers

A family photo of Sadie Slattery of Longmeadow with her parents Stella and Derek after the billboard unveiling honoring Slattery and Jackson Connors of Wilbraham.



A family photo of Jackson Connors of Wilbraham with his parents Jill and Nick after the billboard unveiling honoring Connors and Sadie Slattery of Longmeadow on April 19.

BILLBOARD from page 1

and friends are important," Connors said.

"Mainly because everyone can see it and I think it's good," Slattery said.

Connors and Slattery hope the billboard helps raise awareness for Shriners and for the upcoming golf tournament, stressing the importance of their work with chil-

"Shriners is important because I had a clubbed foot and I couldn't play with my friends, then Shriners helped me a lot and helped me play with my friends and just have fun," Connors said.

"I think it's important because I also go to Shriners and the whole Shriners made me feel a lot more confident and made me feel better about the whole situation, so I'm very thankful for it and I'm glad to be doing this," Slattery said.

Brenda Cuoco, broker/owner at Brenda Cuoco & Associates Real Estate Brokerage, was ecstatic about the unveiling, wanting to give back to the kids and raise awareness for the organization and the upcoming event.

Cuoco said she loves teaming up with Shriners and supporting

community brings her great joy.

"I absolutely love it. There's nothing better than being able to support someone like Shriners. Any of the businesses around that we can support locally. Like I said, we just love giving back," Cuoco said.

The community support also means a lot to Cuoco.

"We just want to keep changing people's lives and make a difference and leaving a legacy most of all is what we love to do," Cuoco said.

Keri Tichy, associate director of philanthropy at Shriners Chilthem, adding giving back to the dren's of New England, explained

last year's golf tournament raised \$27,000 for Shriner's Children of New England and she is looking forward to this year's event.

Tichy expressed gratitude to Cuoco and her team for their support, adding how Shriners Children's of New England treats everyone regardless of ability to pay and 85 cents to every dollar goes towards patient care.

"Their efforts help to transform the lives of so many chilupstate New York. We can't do it without them and our community and strengthening strong partnerships," Tichy said. "To be able to

see our amazing patient ambassadors on a billboard this year out in the community just strengthens that even further.'

Connors and Slattery encourage the community to support Shriners and give back to the community.

"Sign up for an event for a great cause," Connors said.

"Help donate to Shriners," Slattery said.

To learn more about the orgadren across New England and nization, visit shrinerschildrensnewengland.org.



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Patrick Farrow, assistant fire prevention officer and fire & life safety educator for the Wilbraham Fire Department, and Firefighter Evan Grimes stand in front of a fire truck to teach children about fire safety during **Healthy Kids Day.**

HEALTHY from page 12

also helping give children an education.

Onome Oko, an LLC also run by Jones, which means Children Garden, is an urban mobile gardening program being implemented into various community centers to teach kids to get back into nature through gardening and culinary skills.

Jones stressed the importance of events such as Healthy Kids Day.

"Events like this give them something else to look at other than what they're looking at in a regular school," Jones said.

While all the children were occupied doing arts and crafts and getting their faces painted inside,

Firefighter Evan Grimes and Patrick Farrow, assistant



Turley photos by Noelle Hisgen

Lindsay Moynahan of Chickpea Cookie Dough provided snacks during Healthy Kids Day at the Scantic Valley YMCA on April 20.

fire prevention officer and fire & life safety educator, were outside with their fire truck teaching children how to stay safe.

As the children got to sit in the driver's seat, they learned safety tips including preventing their homes from carbon monoxide poisoning and fires.

Farrow expressed the importance of children staying safe in the summer.

"A reminder that firefighters and police officers are community helpers and we're here to help you," Farrow

Clarissa Tsim, a member of the YMCA for five years, took her daughter Mila to the event and had high regards for Healthy Kids Day.

"This is a great event for little kids and a way for them to channel their inner child, especially like the different arts and crafts and different things they're learning from



From the left, Eleanor King, Mary Wroblewski, Allisyn Lopes, Kayla Lopes and Madelyn Lopes do arts and crafts at a table during Healthy Kids Day on April 20.



From the left, Miriam Siegel, Mary McGoverm, and Tracey Perry of Country Bank gave out prizes from a prize wheel during Healthy Kids Day.

it," Tsim said.

The Scantic Valley YMCA spent an exciting morning not only introducing children to new activities and how to stay healthy, but this also was a wonderful celebration of the health of young children in Western Massachu-

HOMETOWN SPOTLIGHT WILBRAHAM-HAMPDEN TIMES

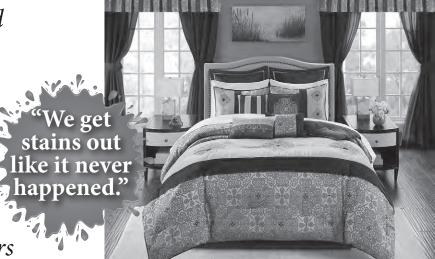


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Community runs to support Rick's Place



Members of the Above the Influence Club leave their mark with their tattoo station during the Rick's Place 5K event at Minnechaug Regional High School on April 27.



A group shot of participants at the starting line during the Rick's Place 5K event at Minnechaug Regional High School on April 27.



WILBRAHAM - On Saturday April 27, the 5th Annual Run for Rick's Place was held at Minnechaug Regional High School.

This annual walk is a way for people of the Hampden-Wilbraham community to give back to those in need of moral support. Rick's Place has held this event since 2018. however, this event was put on hold during the coronavirus pandemic in 2020 and 2021.

Since its return, the support and the outcome of participants for Rick's have exponentially grown, allowing for more funds for the organization.

As a nonprofit organization, Rick's Place is dependent on fundraisers they hold or donations made by people or small local businesses. The nonprofit bases its cause in memory of Wilbraham native Rick Thorpe, who was killed at the World Trade Center on September 11, 2001.

Thorpe graduated from Minnechaug Regional High School and was known for his dedication to his school and community.

In 2007, Rick's Place was formed with the main purpose of supporting children, teenagers, adults and families with a recent loss of a loved one. Since its founding, Rick's Place has been able to help hundreds of families cope with their loss with the volunteers and helpers of Rick's Place.

Entering into the Minnechaug parking lot, the starting base of the race, families who have been supported by Rick's Place were met with signs of their lost loved ones. This was another way for the charity to give their support to families.

Scattered along the pavement at Minnechaug, families who have dealt with loss who signed up for



Turley photos by Jason DeGray A close-up shot of the Rick's Place logo on an attendee's hand during

the Rick's Place 5K event on April 27.

the walk were able to honor their loved ones again with these yard signs paid in full by the

Bill Scatolini, the organization's board president, believes that this event is the most successful and crucial for Rick's Place.

Scatolini was "Totally thrilled and appreciative of all the support" given from sponsors and participants for the race. This year was special because the number of participants reached a total of 172 overall participants, with 71 being run-

The sponsors of the race included the Minnechaug Above the Influence (ATI) Club, the Pioneer Valley Financial Group, LUSO Credit Union, 4Run3 and Excel Physical Therapy.

Before the race, participants and their families were entertained with many games put together by Jason Dalesio's ATI club. These games featured large jenga, cornhole, ring toss, along with a booth for participants or children to receive temporary tattoos.

LUSO Federal Credit Union provided participants with snacks either pre or post-race, while Excel Physical Therapy provided two chairs and masseuses for runners and walkers.

Most importantly, the Pioneer Valley Financial Group provided a majority of funds along with a booth of cooling towels given to a majority of participants.



Minnechaug Regional High School's Above the Influence Club with the club advisor, Jason Dalessio, during the Rick's Place 5K event on April 27.



A pair of runners smile for the camera during the Rick's Place 5K event on April 27.



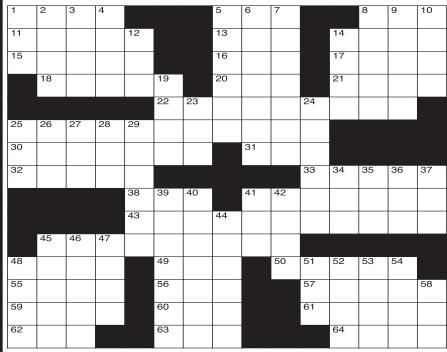
Runners take off during the Rick's Place 5K event at Minnechaug Regional High School on April 27.

Participants of the race were more than pleased to participate in the race.

One participant in particular, Katey Baruth, who was the first female finisher, expressed deep interest in Rick's Place. Baruth, working for the University of Oklahoma with a clinical master's degree in counseling, showed deep interest in the local charity.

With the cause of the race relating to her personal work, Katey Baruth claimed that she felt proud to partake in the "very nice and wonderful cause."

The spirits of Rick's Place and what they are all about were present in the morning. It was great to see how many people, those who have and haven't been helped by Rick's Place, showed up in order to raise money for such a crucial cause in Wilbraham.



CLUES ACROSS

- Lions do it
- 5. In favor of 8. Rest here please (abbr.)
- 11. Pulpits
- 13. Leisure activity
- 14. Fertility god 15. Financial obligations
- 16. When you anticipate getting somewhere
- 17. Spanish river
- 18. Sporting events 20. Type of tree
- 21. Ceased to be
- 22. Persons
- 25. Synthetic resin 30. Relates to photochemical reactions
- 31. Father
- 32. Former Cowboys coach
- 33. City in Finland 38. Run batted in

- 41. Got through
- 43. They darken skin 45. In a harmful way
- 48. Form of weaving 49. City of Angels
- hoopster 50. Caucasian language
- 55. Syngman _ Korean president 56. Sun up in New
- 57. Paddled
- 59. Fishes 60. Affirmative
- 61. Nimble
- 62. Doctor of
- Education 63. Soviet Socialist
- Republic 64. A small island

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Cool!
- 2. Hebrew unit of measure 3. Swedish rock

- aroup 4. College army
- 5. Favor over another 37. Drivers' licenses Called it a career
- 7. Egg-shaped wind instrument
- 8. Israeli statesman 9. Hurries
- 10. Slog 12. Midway between south and
- southeast 14. Benedictine monk 19. Self-immolation
- by fire ritual 23. Family of
- regulator genes 24. Surrendering 25. Political action
- committee 26. S. American plant 27. Long-term
- memory 28. Bark
- 29. Breathes in 34. Take hold of 35. Everyone has one

- 36. Valentine's Day
- and passports 39. Outer walls of castles
- 40. Enters with force 41. One thousandth of an inch
- 42. Deceased Chinese politician 44. Sugary secretion
- of plants 45. Expressed pleasure
- 46. Shelter 47. Utilizes
- 51. Fashion accessory 52. A sharply directional

48 Forest resident

- antenna 53. __ Kristofferson,
- actor 54. A bad place to end up 58. MLBer Gordon

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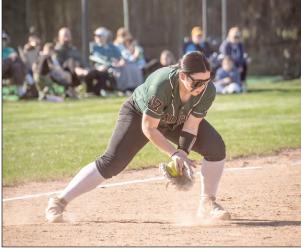


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Peabody collects four hits in softball victory

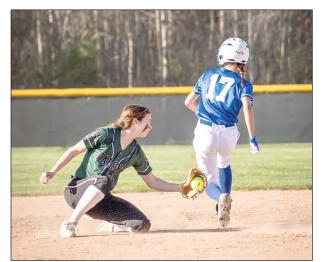


Turley photos by Sofia DiGrande Alexis Adorno picks up the grounder to third.

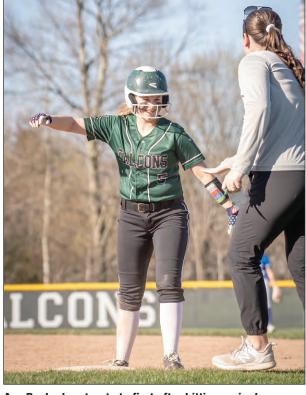
Veronica Ouimet slides safely home.



Mackenzie Blair sends a pitch to the plate.



Amy Dunklee looks to tag out a runner.



Ava Peabody retreats to first after hitting a single.

WILBRAHAM - Last Friday afternoon, Minnechaug softball had a very rare matchup with neighbor Monson. The Falcons collected 12 hits in a 10-4 win. Four of those hits came from Ava Peabody, who had four singles in the game. Abby Peyman had three hits and Angelina Cross had two hits. Mackenzie Blair pitched a complete game, allowing six hits, four runs, a walk, and had 10 strikeouts. The Falcons are 3-4 this season.



Rylee Welch looks low as she looks for where she wants to shoot on goal. More photos on page 16.



Turley photos by Sofia DiGrande Jenna Scatolini looks at the goal before passing.

Gagnon scores five as Falcons cruise to win

WILBRAHAM – Last Monday afternoon, Kali Gagnon led all scorers with five goals and two assists as Minnechaug's offense was all over

also defeated Westfield but lost to They are 5-5 this season. Rylee

Northampton 17-5. The Falcons Welch added three goals tot eh win over Northampton and Ella Sarno Leominster during the past week. and Ainsley Sheehan had two goals

Falcons score big shutout



Turley photos by Sofia DiGrande

Sean Murphy winds up to send a long pass out of the defensive end of the field

WILBRAHAM - With five goals from Jack Derosia and four goals from Matt Noonan, the Falcons provided more than enough offense to get a win over Pope Francis. But the defense also did a great job as Minnechaug boys lacrosse scored a 15-0 shutout of the Cardinals. The Falcons are now 5-3 on the season.

Falcons score big shutout



Matt Noonan sends a pass away.



Ryan Ice is headed off by a defender.



Nick Patrakis sprints up the field with the ball.



Turley photos by Sofia DiGrande Ryan Purchas launches a shot on goal.

Candlepin League News

By Ryan Drago Staff Writer rdrago@turley.com

Tuesday Night Commercial Elks League

PALMER - The Commercial Elks made it to their final regular week of league candlepin bowling.

These series of matches will conclude the final round and will determine the third qualifier for the

As of April 16, The Champs R Here are in first place at 27-9. In the running Acres is in second place at 25-11. Team BK is in third place at 24-12. The remaining teams are mathematically eliminated from playoff contention.

Compression and Life is Good have already qualified for the play-

One match took place between #1 seed Champs R Here against #2 seed Acres. In game one, Acres defeated Champs R Here by a score of 398-382. Matt Bertelli and Paul Tereso of Acres each broke 100 in the opening game (Tereso 101, Bertelli 106). Stephen Manolakis of Champs R Here began with a 114.

defeated Acres 375-362. Manolakis led the team with a 113.

In game three, Champs R Here defeated Acres 385-367 to win a is Good at 1043. total of three points and secure the last playoff spot. Manolakis finished with a 109 and a series of 336.

The final score is Champs R Here at 1142 and Acres at 1127.

#3 seed Team BK bowled against Last in Line. Team BK won the first game 353-345. In game two, Last in Line won 367-354. Vinny Navarro bowled a 112 to lead Last in Line to a victory. Mark Fitzpatrick of Team BK bowled 118.

In game three, Team BK won the last game by a score of 378-361. The final score was Team BK at 1085 and Last in Line at 1073.

The two playoff teams, Compression and Life is Good, bowled each other in the last week of round three. In game one, Compression took the first game from one of their playoff opponents 361-345.

In game two, Compression won again by a score of 352-341. Jason Dominick of Compression led the team in the second game with a 104.

In game three. Compression won for a three-game sweep over

In game two, Champs R Here Life is Good. The score in game three was Compression at 364 and Life is Good at 357. The final score was Compression at 1077 and Life

> As a result of winning three points against Acres, Champs R Here are the winners of round three and will be in the playoffs. Compression, Life is Good and Champs R Here will compete against each other in the final week of the season for the league championship.

> The remaining four teams who didn't receive a playoff berth will compete in a consolation roll off.

Monday Night League Playoffs

The final two teams who made it to the final week of the season are Tag Team and the Four Stooges. After three competitive games, Tag Team prevails and are the 2023-2024 candlepin league season champions for Monday nights.

Tag Team consists of John Havens Sr, John Eckart, John "JT" Terault and Nick Maslon. The runner ups of the season, The Four Stooges, consist of Dave Chambers, Rich Chambers, Joe Grant and Marc Pelissier.

Gagnon scores five as Falcons cruise to win



Kali Gagnon tries to fight around a defender.



Ainsley Sheehan fights to take away the loose ball.



Turley photos by Sofia DiGrande

Izzy Manning heads towards the right side as the Falcons swarm around the goal.

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Olympics lead to change in HoopHall induction

SPRINGFIELD – The Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame has announced it will move its Enshrinement Ceremonies from Aug. 16-17 to Oct. 12-13 to accommodate requests of the vast global basketball community amid an extensive and expanding summer schedule, highlighted by the 2024 Summer Olympics. The date change will continue to position the Hall of Fame event as a successful, well-produced standalone event not compromised by potential production conflicts.

"The Hall of Fame appreciates the input from friends across the basketball community and the recommendations of our production partners regarding a schedule adjustment for our Enshrinement Ceremonies," said John L. Doleva, President & CEO of the Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame. "We understand the importance of the burgeoning Olympic basketball events to our broader constituencies and regret any inconvenience caused by the change. This one-time move to October assures that we are best positioned to once again create a great experience for our guests and deliver viewers a first-class presentation to celebrate our esteemed Class."

Enshrinement Weekend will begin at Mohegan Sun on Saturday, Oct. 12, with the Tip-Off Celebration and Awards Gala. The Class of 2024 and returning Hall of Famers will then assemble in Springfield, for the annual events taking place at the Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame and Springfield's Symphony Hall on Sunday, Oct.

The updated schedule of events for Enshrinement 2024:

Saturday, Oct. 12, at Mohegan Sun (Uncasville, Conn.)

Enshrinement 2024 Autograph Session Enshrinement 2024 Press Conference Enshrinement Tip-Off Celebration and Awards Gala Sunday, Oct. 13, in Springfield

Enshrinement Ceremony VIP Reception at Springfield Marriott

Enshrinement Ceremony Red Carpet Show at Symphony Hall

Enshrinement Ceremony at Symphony Hall

Registration now open to take part in Bay State Games

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

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

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

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

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

T-Birds put bow on successful season at MassMutual

SPRINGFIELD – The Springfield Thunderbirds completed a historic season in style on Saturday, hosting a 14th consecutive sellout crowd inside the MassMutual Center. The capacity crowd for the finale also marked the 20th time during the 2023-24 season that "the Thunderdome" hit its maximum occupancy.

Both the 14-game sellout streak and the 20 total sellout crowds set Springfield AHL hockey records, and those were merely two statistics from a year full of shattered records and overwhelming support from the fanbase. The Thunderbirds' ticket sales department saw distinct growth in numerous categories, including group ticket revenue (up 30% from 2022-23), season ticket revenue (up 15%), and total full-season tickets sold (up 5%).

"The support this franchise has received from day one has been indescribable," said Thunderbirds President Nathan Costa. "It takes so many factors for an American Hockey League franchise to succeed, and our front office staff is right up there with the best in the business. Their tireless efforts, coupled with the passion and energy of the Thunderdome crowd, made this historic season a reality. We have no intention of slowing down either, which should make our fans so excited for what will come."

Of the 6,321 fans who attended Thunderbirds games on average last season, about 25% were members of various groups participating in a wide variety of in-game experiences, from Premium Suite and Executive Perch parties to on-ice activities like national anthem performances and high-five tunnel teams. Springfield's front office staff efforts helped the club generate the eighth most group tickets sold in the league.

"We have long worked at making Thunderbirds games a lifelong memory for fans of all ages," said Costa. "In the process of doing that, we have been able to showcase members of our community, which has led to amazing opportunities for these groups to have a huge audience and grow their followings. Performing at Thunderbirds games has become a checklist item for thousands in this area, and we take great pride in that."

This season, the T-Birds saw an average of 93.1% of all seats filled inside the MassMutual Center, the highest average attendance to capacity in the AHL's Eastern Conference and second-highest in the league. Such successes in filling the arena directly led to the Thunderbirds' corporate sales department reaching new heights.

In the 2023-24 season, the T-Birds saw a 15% growth in corporate revenue while sitting atop the league rankings in total sponsorship deals. Integrations with sponsors have continued to be showcased across various mediums, from in-arena and in-ice signage to social media post sponsorships and elements of the in-game broadcast production.

"Having widespread support from our business partners is also paramount to success in the American Hockey League," Costa added. "Our corporate team has fostered meaningful relationships beyond return on investment and emphasized Springfield's pride for the city. Their accomplishments are remarkable when compared to markets of exponentially greater size."

Supplementing the Thunderbirds' success in tickets and corporate business, the franchise experienced a seventh consecutive season of brand development and merchandise growth as the club rose to the top 10 in the AHL in-game night merchandise sales, with an emphasis on creating high-quality product lines across not just the T-Birds brand, but specialty nights as well.

"We are aware of how impactful merchandise can be from a grassroots marketing perspective," said Costa. "Giving our fans the ability to show their pride for specialty evenings like Pink in the Rink, Ice-O-Topes, and Military Appreciation further bolsters our connection between our team and the community."

The Thunderbirds will look to build upon their record-breaking success when the 2024-25 season, the eighth Thunderbirds hockey campaign, gets underway this October. Schedules and single-game tickets will go on sale later this summer. Fans can reserve their seats for Thunderbirds' hockey action in the 2024-25 season with a ticket membership by calling (413)-739-GOAL (4625) or visiting www. SpringfieldThunderbirds.com.

Quabbin League wants to fill remaining spots

Rosters spots are dwindling, but there are still some spots available as the Quabbin Valley Over-28 Baseball has begun it season. There are still several open spots to get filled despite the season being underway.

Registration for the 2024 season is now open and any interested players can go to www.quabbinvalleybase-ball.org to get registered, or to seek more information or make inquiries about the league.

The league plays most Sunday from late April through late August with playoffs following that. The league plays a 15-game schedule and typically fields six teams each year. Games are usually played at 10 a.m. with fields in Easthampton and South Hadley used as well some expansion to the surrounding area this season. The league does not play on Mother's Day or Memorial Day weekends.

The Quabbin Valley league is an all-abilities league and all are welcome to join. Eligibility is players who are age 28 and over. You must be 30 to be eligible to pitch in the league. Your age for eligibility is whatever age you will turn in 2024. The league is also able to entertaining taking in an entire group as a team to add to the league. Please email the league board for to inquire about entering a team. The league can also pro-rate registration at this point. Simply contact a league board member. Contact information is located at the registration link.

Great Songs from Great Movies at the Wilbraham Public Library

WILBRAHAM— Instrumentalist and vocalist David Polansky will perform "Great Songs From Great Movies" at the Wilbraham Public Library on Monday, May 20 at 6 p.m. In addition to taking audience requests, his concert will span several decades of film history, from Singin' in the Rain to Star Wars. An accomplished musician, David is in constant demand throughout the New England area. Loved by everyone from preschoolers to grandparents, his songs have been compared to those of Stephen Sondheim and Tom Lehrer. He has performed at the Wilbraham Library since 1997.

Registration for this free event is encouraged and space is limited. To register, please contact the library at 413-596-6141 or visit the Event Calendar at www. wilbrahamlibrary.org. This program is sponsored by the Wilbraham Friends of the Library.



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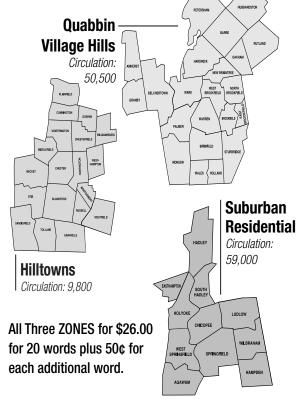


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13		14		15		16	
17		18		19		20	Base Price \$26.00
21	Base Price \$26.50	22	Base Price \$27.00	23	Base Price \$27.50	24	Base Price \$28.00
25	Base Price \$28.50	26	Base Price \$29.00	27	Base Price \$29.50	28	Base Price \$30.00
29	Base Price \$30.50	30	Base Price \$31.00	31	Base Price \$31.50	32	Base Price \$32.00
33	Base Price \$32.50	34	Base Price \$33.00	35	Base Price \$33.50	36	Base Price \$34.00
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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.

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 be-

hind Town Hall, 240 Springfield St., or can be done online at registertovotema. com. Please contact the Wilbraham Town Clerk's Office if you have any questions at 596-2800, ext 200.

Wilbraham Community Garden announces 14th Annual 'Plowing the Community Garden' event

WILBRAHAM - The Wilbraham Community Garden proudly announces the 14th Annual "Plowing the Community Garden" event. This event will take place on Saturday, May 4 from 11:00 a.m. - 3 p.m. at the Wilbraham Community Garden located at 700 Monson Rd. in Wilbraham. There will be several teams of Draft Horses & Oxen including Hickory Hollow Working Steers, Mainely Drafts and Cedar Knoll Farm preparing the soil the slow old fashioned way utilizing walking and riding plows. The list of local vendors grows every day including Little Oak Farm, Bryan Haleys Sauces and S & S Handmade Soap. Danas Main Street Tavern Food Truck will be on-site for lunch items for sale and the musical entertainment will be brought to you by The Murpyzs. Bring your camera and a chair and join us for a wonderful event. For more information or to be a vendor, please call Melissa Graves in the Conservation office at 596-2800, ext. 204.

Wilbraham Hiking Club posts hikes for May and June

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

- a more challenging, quicker-paced hike at the Rice Nature Preserve in Wil-
- 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 Team-Reach, use the code WHC01095. If you do not use apps, you can join the club by writing to wilbrahamhiking@gmail.com

Wilbraham Friends of the Library Annual Book Sale

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

Start your spring cleaning now and box or bag up your extra books, CDs and DVDs for us. Children's and adult books, fiction or non-fiction, hobby books etc. in good condition are all welcome. Due to space restrictions, we cannot accept encyclopedias, magazines or Readers Digest condensed novels.

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

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

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

PUBLIC NOTICE

COMMONWEAL TH OF MASSACHUSETTS The Trial Court **Probate and Family Court** Department **HAMPDEN, Division** Docket No. HD23Pl 784PM

To all persons interested in the estate of Harry Macleod, of Wilbraham, in said County,

A petition has been pre-

sented to said Court for license to sell at private sale - public auction certain real estate of said Harry Macleod for his maintenance.

If you desire to object thereto you or your attorney should file a written appearance in said Court at 50 State Street, Springfield, MA before 10:00 in the forenoon on the 23rd day of May

2024, the return day of this citation.

Witness, BARBARA M. HYLAND, Esquire, First Judge of said Court, this 16th day of April 2024

Rosemary A Saccomani Register 05/02/2024

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BRIMFIELD ANTIQUE MARKET. May 15-18, seeks food service help. This is a fast paced gig. Email contact information to emaysfoodservice@ gmail.com

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

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INTERSTATE BATTERIES IS SEEKING A DRIVER for deliveries in Western Mass area. Qualifications include: clean driving record; ability to lift heavy weights; stable job history; good communication skills; high work standards & strong self-organizational skills. Apply in person 8 am-5pm M-F 9am-12pm Sat. 230 Chauncey Walker Street (Rte 21) Belchertown.

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

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

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

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FOR RENT



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PROJECT from page 4

tance of the projects as they're along major throughways in town, highlighting safety and up-to-date structure as the biggest priorities.

"Making sure a) during these events, people remain safe and if they need help, emergency services can get there and then after events like this, making sure that there's not a major impact, not months of impact to the town itself," Lyman said.

Tom Lautzenheiser, senior conservation ecologist with the Mass Audubon Society, elaborated on how the Laughing Brook Wildlife Sanctuary has been experiencing many of the flooding issues and its impacts.

"In the past, the bridge that's being replaced has acted, essentially, collecting enough debris to act sort of (like) a dam and potentially cause problems to the road. We've seen our trail system affected by flooding. 15 years ago or so, our whole driveway entry area was wiped out in a flood (and) required a whole new configuration," Lautzenheiser said.

Lautzenheiser expressed excitement at working with the town, the MVP process and Conway School "to see what changes we can make at the sanctuary" and alleviate the "watershed scale issues."

"There's only so much we can do at Laughing Brook itself, but it's exciting to know that the town is thinking about this on kind of a systems-level and is working upstream on these low-impact development green infrastructure, interface solutions. Activities to both improve water quality and control the volume of water that's just coming down the river and affecting the stream and the adjacent floodplain and the community downstream," Lautzenheiser said.

Mary Monahan has helped Howard Stein Hudson coordinate the MVP grant program, sharing how Hampden is in their fourth year of getting grant assistance.

Monahan explained the bridge replacement project is a key component.

"The bridge on Main Street, in the current funding year, in addition to the green infrastructure, the design of the bridge on



Turley photos by Kristin Rivers

Lyon Waxman, graduate student at the **Conway School of Ecological Landscape** Design, takes photos along the East **Brook during the April 10 site visit.**

Main Street with the goal of replacing the bridge is a key task in this project. That's an issue the town has faced for probably decades." Monahan said. "It was first identified in the town's Hazard Mitigation Plan as being a priority and then the Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness program became an opportunity for the to to further study that need and, now, to get funding to actually design a new bridge to address that flood obstruction."

Card wants the community to know the project has residents' health and safety in mind along with the planet.

"There's a lot of negotiating between those stakeholders that has to happen and that's a lot of the fun and the challenge of the work," Card said, "Nature's been engineering for much longer than humans have and so there's a lot of benefits that can be found in working with what nature has engineered. So, we're considering a lot of those options as we're working with HSH and the other stakeholders on this project.'

Waxman hopes the projects offer solutions.

"We hope that we can offer some solutions to be able to help the town itself with the issues they've been dealing with and hopefully that's combining together, collaborating with the town and with HSH to bring those plans into successful implementation," Waxman said.

6th Annual Juried Art Show takes place on June 1 and 2

HAMPDEN - Celebrate Art! The Scantic River Artisans will be hosting their 6th Annual Juried Art Show on June 1 & 2, 2024. The times will be: June 1 (12 - 5) and June 2 (11 - 3). There will be a reception with refreshments and entertainment on June 2 (12 - 2) with awards at 2:00. The show will be held at 104 Allen Street, Hampden, MA (The Hampden Senior Center).

Join us for a celebration of creativity with paintings, jewelry, pottery, metalwork and a local book author book signing. Uncover unique treasures and purchase the craftsmanship of talented artisans.

For more information, please visit: wwwscanticriverartisans.com or email us at: info@scanticriverartisans.com.

Bobbi's Senior Trips - Hampden

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

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

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

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

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

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

Any questions / to sign up, call Bobbi @ 566-8271 or email bobbijg2@ charter.net.

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UAG	34 Bayberry Rd., Hampden	10 room, 3 bed, 2f, 0h bath Contemporary	\$409,900						
UAG	155 Lakeview Ave., Ludlow	6 room, 3 bed, 2f, 0h bath Raised Ranch	\$359,900						
SLD	37 Vadnais St., East Longmeadow	4 room, 2 bed, 1f 0h bath Ranch	\$269,900	\$269,000					
SLD	174 Wilbraham Rd., Hampden	7 room, 3 bed, 1f, 0h bath Colonial, Farmhouse	\$320,000	\$320,000					
SLD	52 Skyridge St., Ludlow	5 room, 3 bed, 1f, 0h bath Ranch	\$260,000	\$255,000					
SLD	4 Brows Beach Rd., Wales	6 room, 3 bed, 1f 1h bath Contemporary, Cottage	\$349,900	\$358,000					
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SLD 319 Blisswood Village Dr., U:319, Ludlow 4 room, 2 bed, 1f 1h bath Townhouse \$243,900 \$253,000 **LAND LISTINGS**

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