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(L to R) Allison Demetri, Charlotte Powell, Kiki Brook and Camille Dziura show off their nip bottle project and how much they collected during last weekend's Wilbraham Clean Up for Earth Day. (Staff photo by Kristin Rivers)

Girl Scouts collect nip bottles to keep the community safe

By Kristin Rivers
Staff Writer
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WILBRAHAM - During the April 22 Wilbraham Clean Up for Earth Day event, members of Girl Scout Troop #64587 participated in a nip bottle collection project to earn their Bronze Awards.

After the event, four bins of nip bottles were collected.

Troop members Allison Demetri, Charlotte Powell, Kiki Brook and Camille Dziura shared what inspired the project and how Girl

Scouts are about more than selling cookies.

The project started a couple of years earlier at the Peach Blossom Festival to promote concerns about the nip bottles because they were found around town, especially on the busy roads and in the woods.

"We were trying to encourage proper disposal of garbage, but specifically nip bottles," Brook said. "Since then, because of that, it became a thing in the town where it was now a known issue."

Powell added they collected

so much in a short amount of time.

"We had grabbed 30 nip bottles in half an hour. It was crazy," Powell said. "It got exciting when we found them too. We were like 'Oh it's a nip bottle,' but then we were like, 'Oh, it's littering.'"

Troop Leader Jen Powell explained the legal consideration for nip bottles has two components: littering and drunk driving concerns.

"It's a proposal to put five

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Scantic Valley YMCA celebrates Healthy Kids Day



(L to R) Private Joshua Sterling of the Wilbraham Fire Department and Silas take a tour of the fire truck during the Healthy Kids Day event at the Scantic Valley YMCA. (Staff photo by Kristin Rivers)

By Kristin Rivers
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WILBRAHAM - Families visited the Scantic Valley YMCA from 10 a.m. to noon on April 29 to celebrate Healthy Kids Day.

The annual event featured family-friendly activities encouraging healthy kids, including occupational therapy from Springfield College students, nutrition and development from American International College, reading from the YMCA Early Learning Center and more.

Additionally, Home Depot provided seeds for seed planting.

Rhonda Young, program director for children and families at the Center for Human Development, had people wanting to learn more about becoming foster parents.

The Center for Human De-

velopment's Children's Programs was also an event sponsor.

"We have a really good relationship with the Y. It's great and they've been great to us, so it's nice to participate here and get the word out about our programming," Young said.

Dr. Michael Margolis of Margolis Orthodontics was another sponsor and he and his staff shared dental services with attendees.

"We like to support the community in any way we can. We like to give back. An event like this, Healthy Kids Day, definitely fits in with our role as orthodontists and giving people healthy mouths. That's part of being a healthy kid too," Margolis said.

Brimfield Fire Department Paramedic Jonathan Hall is a regular at the YMCA and comes with Toto the cat, the in-

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Kathy Fiore, general manager and co-owner of Magic Wings Butterfly Conservatory, presented for seniors and children at the senior center on April 26. (Staff photo by Dalton Zbierski)

Audience of all ages witnesses Magic Wings in Hampden

By Dalton Zbierski
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HAMPDEN - Senior citizens enjoyed a magical presentation alongside children from the Green Valley Preschool & Daycare at the senior center on April 26.

Kathy Fiore, general manager and co-owner of Magic Wings Butterfly Conservatory in South Deerfield, traveled to her hometown of Hampden to present in front of an audience of all ages.

"Often times, I'll have my staff go and do road shows for me, but when they're places that are really close to my heart... we heard from Hampden Senior Center, and I said, 'I'm going to take care of that show,'" Fiore said.

From butterflies to giant in-

sects to caterpillars, Fiore brought a range of species to the senior center. She said the outreach program has traveled as far northwest as Cape Cod and as far south as Greenwich, CT.

"I love doing it," she said, explaining that she really enjoys presenting to children. "It's the most fun thing ever because you want to know what they know so far and then, as you start to bring them out a little bit, they'll tell you they've seen caterpillars in their yard or different things like that so it's great to bring them the experience."

This November, Magic Wings will turn 23-years-old. It was originally opened by Fiore's father, George Miller, in 2000. Fiore and her brother joined the business not long after it opened and carry on

the memory of their late father.

"We lost my dad in 2017 but we continue to trek on and do the good work that my dad had started by building the conservatory," she said.

With a range of species beyond butterflies such as lizards, tortoises, birds and koi fish, Fiore said she hopes Magic Wings offers individuals an experience that "feels like you're maybe in Costa Rica, but no, you're in South Deerfield."

When asked about the age range of the audience last Wednesday, Fiore said it represents Magic Wings' demographic well. She said the youngest person she knows of who's visited Magic Wings was five-days-old; the oldest was 102-years-old.

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Hampden Selectmen deadlock on Housing Authority candidates

By Dalton Zbierski
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HAMPDEN – When the Board of Selectmen met on May 1, it was anticipated that an appointment would be made to the Housing Authority board. Ultimately, the decision was postponed.

Diane Abdo and Dianne Melcher, both residents of Centennial Commons on Springmeadow Lane, interviewed for the position, answering questions from board Chair John Flynn and Selectman Craig Rivest.

Selectman Donald Davenport recused himself from the discussion and vote, as one of the candidates is his sister.

Flynn chose Abdo, and Rivest selected Melcher. Both Selectmen said they had never encountered such a deadlock and that the appointment would be discussed further on May 8 prior to the Annual Town Meeting.

“It’s so great to have two people interested. I think we have a very difficult decision. We wish we could take you both,” Flynn said.

Abdo took out papers and collected signatures, expecting that a candidate would be chosen in this month’s election before being informed that the Selectmen would make the decision. She said she has attended numerous Housing Authority meetings.

Abdo said she is active in the town and implied she communicates often with the residents of the Commons. If appointed to the board, she would work to create more outreach with residents, noting “there’s a lot of elderly and they don’t seem to know what’s going on.”

She touched on the speed limit, relaying her observations that drivers exceed the 10 mph posting as they drive into the Commons. She wasn’t sure how the issue

can be resolved but feels that it should be looked into.

Abdo also said the Commons has a problem with dogs. She said residents don’t properly secure their dogs and that they urinate on the property’s gardens; she proposed a solution.

“Technically, I would think one good way would be when everyone’s dogs die, we wouldn’t allow them anymore. That’s my feeling... they’re ruining the complex,” Abdo said.

Flynn chose to support Abdo based on the fact that she took out papers, collected signatures and has attended Housing Authority meetings.

“Again having been around forever, I trend to lean toward someone who takes the time to get involved, and I really give Ms. Abdo credit for actually going out and wanting to serve. Running for something is not easy,” Flynn said. “There’s the fact that she also attended some board meetings to see what’s going on, and I’ve heard from other neighbors that she’s been around and has been engaged.”

Melcher served as a receptionist in Town Hall during the pandemic and moved to the Commons several years ago. She said she thought a new face on the board would be a good idea and expressed her belief that the Housing Authority can earn more grant funding.

“I’ve noticed Massachusetts now offers grants to the housing boards so maybe there’s a grant available that we can give to our residents to improve something,” she said.

Melcher also proposed enhancing the Wifi at the Commons, especially in the common area. She said residents play cards and bingo, hold family dinners, celebrate holidays and birthdays and do a variety of activities there, where better Wifi would be a welcome addition.

“A lot of the elderly, even though

we’re elderly, we still want to do technical things, and lot of them don’t have cars or the ability to get to the library or the senior center so they would like that,” she said.

Rivest asked each candidate if they are an emotional or educated decision maker. Abdo said she makes both emotional and educated decisions, and Melcher said she is an educated decision maker.

“Once they presented me with what the options were, I would go back home and look at it, try to find some more information on it, and then at the next meeting I would present my feelings on it, whether I agreed with it or disagreed and the reasons why,” she said.

Melcher’s answer convinced Rivest to support her, in addition to the references

and letter of recommendation she arrived with.

“One thing stood out to me was Dianne Melcher came in with a list of references and a letter of recommendation and, while I think they both have great ideas and great thoughts, just from the educational perspective of decision making, I would have to side with Dianne right now,” Rivest said.

It was not clarified if a decision will be made next Monday, only that the discussion will continue in the Selectmen’s meeting that occurs prior to the ATM.

Before the conversation ended, Flynn offered a lighthearted joke.

“We’re appointing Diane to the board, and you both can show up,” he said.

ERC5 Senior Alliance presentation to occur at Hampden Senior Center

HAMPDEN – A free upcoming event, a Senior Alliance presentation brought to you by the Hampden Senior Center and East of the River Chamber of Commerce, will occur on Wednesday, May 10 at 9 a.m. at the senior center on Allen Street.

Free breakfast included, provided by JGS Lifecare!

Organizers are excited to invite you to a special event focused on an important topic for many seniors: whether it’s time to stay or to go. We know that this is a difficult decision, and our panel of experts are

here to provide insights and advice to help you make the best decision for yourself. We will be discussing the many factors that can influence your decision. Our experts will share their knowledge and experience on this topic, and we hope that you will join us for what promises to be an informative and engaging conversation.

Presenters include Katie Krupka, Mary-Anne Schelb, Heidi Pafumi and Liz Davila.

‘Crimes of the Heart’

May 5-7 at The Red Barn at Fountain Park

WILBRAHAM – For the second consecutive weekend, Artistic Director Mark Giza will help bring to life “Crimes of the Heart” at The Red Barn at Fountain Park at 883 Tinkham Road.

Enjoy the story of the three McGrath sisters, who are reunited in their home-

town of Hazlehurst, MS for the first time in a decade. Under the scorching heat of the Mississippi sun, past resentments bubble to the surface and each sister must come to terms with the consequences of her own “crimes of the heart.”

The May 5 and 6 shows occur at 7:30 p.m. The May 7 show occurs at 2 p.m.

General admission costs \$20. Admission for seniors and students is \$18.



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Wilbraham Board of Selectmen receive updates on proposed plans and projects

Also, updates on town appointment roles

By Kristin Rivers
Staff Writer
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WILBRAHAM - The Board of Selectmen received updates on proposed plans from the 2023 Hill Climb to the Cottage Avenue Bridge.

The Hill Climb plans presented by Police Chief Ed Lennon during the May 1 meeting include proposed street closures from 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. and a temporary parking ban request.

One of the street closures involves Main Street from Tinkham Road to Burt Lane for the northbound lane, while the southbound remains open.

"That gives us a couple of things. One, it allows us to keep Burt Lane and Crank Park open, but in both directions, so the events going on there and the different businesses, they won't be affected at all," Lennon said. "So vehicles that come out of Burt Lane will be able to go north. Traffic that's coming south will be able to access that so they'll be no restrictions right there."

Lennon said for Gazebo Park, a proposed "hard closure just south of Burt Lane" and they could "barricade off the northbound lane of Main Street" just south of Monson Road.

"That means what we can do is all the different patrons, activities, they'll have a buffer zone between the traffic, which is going southbound," Lennon said.

For the parking ban, Lennon requested a 20-minute parking limit as the town-wide tag sale will happen the same day. The limit will apply to parking in front of houses during that event.

"No one's going to be in front of the house with a stopwatch, but it'll allow these people that are having tag sales to cooperate," he said.

The motions passed 3-0.

Next, Department of Public Works Director Tonya Capparello provided updates on the Cottage Avenue Bridge project.

The main focus is repairs with a



(L to R) Board of Selectmen Clerk Susan Bunnell, Chairman Carolyn Brennan, Vice Chairman Theresa Goodrich, Fire Chief Michael Andrews and Town Administrator Nick Breault sign the agreements to reappoint Andrews as chief of the fire department for three more years. (Staff photo by Kristin Rivers)

request for emergency certification. Timing for the plans, she explained, will depend on the contractors.

"We've been in touch with Ludlow, they're aware of what's going on, they're doing their part," Capparello said.

Chapter 90 funding, she added, is available as the department gets about \$550,000. The option would be to take it from there, but it would take away from roads needing paving.

"Basically for Chapter 90, we would take it from the highway budget which supplements paving as well, so one or the other and that's where the money would come from," Capparello said.

Capparello clarified the bridge would remain open during the repairs.

"Right now, it's close monitoring," she said. "Again, it's not unsafe. It's just what they're saying is prepared and have to get planned for it."

The request passed 3-0.

Lastly, an appointment and reappointment for town roles.

For the Council on Aging Board vacancy, Jennifer Chapin, a recently

retired educator after 32 years, was interviewed.

Chapin explained when her mother-in-law was a resident in a nursing home, she "got to know" the residents there. She saw their struggles and listened to their worries in navigating the placement of a loved one in housing.

"I always said when I retire, I wanted to do something that would help them and so this came up and I thought, 'Well, this is a good way to start,'" Chapin said.

Chapin was appointed for a term through June 30, 2025.

Fire Chief Michael Andrews, meanwhile, was reappointed to a new three-year term beginning July 1, 2023, and signed his new contract.

"We just want to thank you for your service and wanting to work for Wilbraham and staying with us," Chairman Carolyn Brennan said.

Andrews expressed his thanks for working with great people in the community and how "we've done a lot of good things."

"Thank you for having me, keeping me and it's been a pleasure," Andrews said.

CORRECTION:

In the Wilbraham Clean Up Day article from April 24, Betsy Fenyes and Amanda Fenyes were misidentified as Betsy Lampenas, in the article itself, and Angel

for the photo of her and Vivian at the coloring and sign design table. The correct names are Betsy Fenyes and Amanda Fenyes. We apologize for the error.



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Seasons Pool & Patio to hold grand opening May 6

By Dalton Zbierski
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MONSON – Seasons Pool & Patio, located at 339 Boston Road, is up and running and will hold its grand opening this Saturday.

With a motto of “Create Paradise in Your Own Backyard,” Seasons Pool & Patio offers a variety of services and items relative to the installation and upkeep of pools and spas.

“What we’re really trying to focus on is high-quality products, knowledge so we can solve your problems, customer service and giving you the call back if you leave a message,” said Seth LeClair, a manager at Seasons Pool & Patio, who brings 29 years of experience in the pool industry to the job.

Although the business has a Wilbraham address, it technically sits in Monson, so the team invites residents from all communities to partake in the festivities on May 6. The event will feature hamburgers, hot dogs, cake, raffles and special pricing on spas, equipment and cleaners.

Business owner Cheryl Lemelin-Hickman said much has been accomplished since the new lease began on March 1. The business was formerly a hardware store; new ownership has built out counterspace, expanded a service window and walled off office space.

“In the past two months, we’ve basically renovated the whole inside of here. It’s been fast and furious just trying to get ready for the 2023 season. It’s really exciting. There’s a lot of enthusiasm,” Lemelin-Hickman said.

In mid-April, Seasons Pool & Patio completed their first inground installation of the season, creating a 24-foot by 50-foot pool.

By partnering with Lemelin Environmental Services, a second business owned in conjunction with Seasons Pool & Patio, the business has all of the trucks, employees and excavating equipment it needs to install inground pools.

The installation process begins when the team from Seasons Pool & Patio visits a property and learns the customer’s vision. The design phase is then completed before the actual installation occurs, which includes the



Seth LeClair and Cheryl Lemelin-Hickman, pictured at Seasons Pool & Patio.

excavation, the placement of steel walls, the shaping of the pool’s interior and lastly hanging the liner.

LeClair said installations are not the only major service that the business provides.

“We do repairs here too so if people need their pumps or filters repaired, we do it right in house,” he said.

LeClair stressed that customers who call the business will not be met with the voice of a machine. If a call is missed, it will quickly be returned.

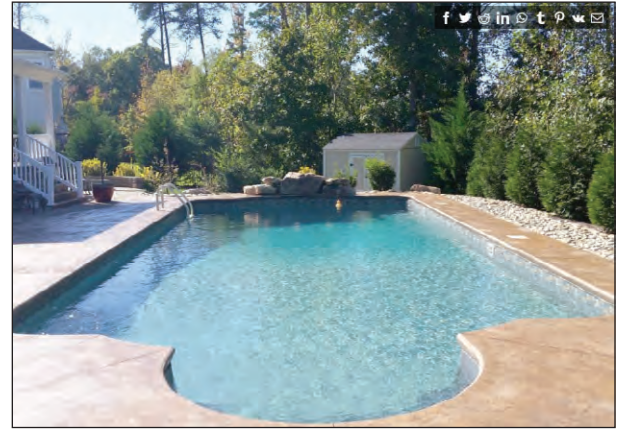
LeClair offered more information on why he’s been in the pool industry since 1994.

“Why I enjoy this so much is because you’re making people’s dreams come true. You’re putting pools in their backyard. You’re giving them what they’ve always been looking for, and your providing those memories for them,” he said.

Lemelin-Hickman describes Seasons Pool & Patio as a “one stop shop.”

She looks forward to building rapport with clients and learning names and faces, which was difficult to do when she only worked on the construction/installation side of the business.

Lemelin-Hickman di-



Seasons Pool & Patio is open for business at 339 Boston Road. (Photos courtesy of Seasons Pool & Patio)

rected words of appreciation towards Monson Savings Bank, which helped get the operation off the ground, and to the business’ Vice President Dan Lenz.

And when you drive down Boston Road, she says you can’t miss Seasons Pool & Patio.

“All day long, as we’re here, the lighted sign is letting people know we’re open. We’re just trying to let people know,” she said.

All Creatures Great and Small Saturday, May 13th

12:30 PM – 3:00 PM



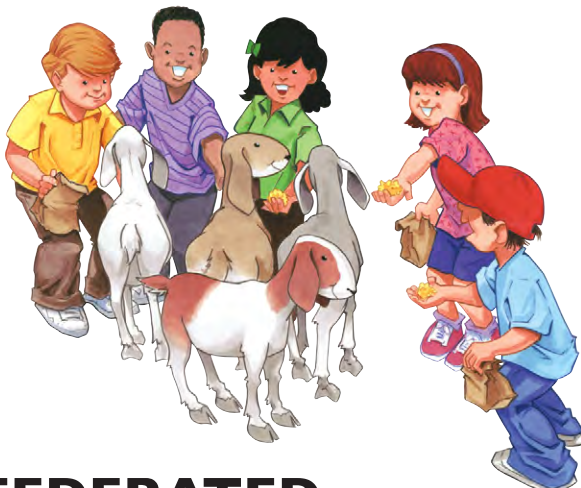
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NFPA, ESFI underscore safety related to electric vehicles and e-mobility devices

Electric vehicles and motorized micromobility devices (e-bikes and e-scooters) are more popular than ever, but the potential for fire-related hazards associated with the lithium-ion batteries that power these forms of transport is real and often underestimated.

The National Fire Protection Association actively supports National Electrical Safety Month, an annual campaign sponsored by Electrical Safety Foundation International, which raises awareness of potential home electrical hazards, the importance of electrical fire safety, and the safety of electrical and non-electrical workers, each May. This year's theme, "Electrification: E-Mobility," emphasizes safety when using and maintaining different types of transit powered by electricity such as cars, buses, trucks, e-bikes and e-scooters.

According to a recent report by ERM, a global pure-play sustainability consultancy group, automakers and battery manufacturers worldwide will spend more than \$626 billion through 2030 to develop new electric cars, passenger

trucks, freight trucks, and buses. The micromobility market is also expected to grow from \$40 billion today to \$215 billion by 2030, as stated by Allied Marketing Research. The growth in both production and use of electric cars, e-bikes, and e-scooters makes the work of educating people about safe practices more important now than ever before.

"While many people are buying electric vehicles and using e-bikes and e-scooters as a means of alternative transportation for work and recreational activities, what many consumers may not know is that the batteries that power them pose a major fire risk if they are not charged or stored properly," said Lorraine Carli, vice president of Outreach and Advocacy at NFPA. "People who operate these vehicles and devices must continue to learn about the facts involved in safe usage, charging, and storage."

During Electrical Safety Month, NFPA and ESFI are providing free safety information and resources for residents to help reduce the risk of injury and damage to property

when storing and charging lithium-ion batteries used in e-bikes and e-scooters, and electric vehicles. Firefighters and other first responders are encouraged to use these materials in their public outreach efforts.

In 2020, NFPA introduced Faces of Fire/Electrical, a video awareness campaign focused on electrical hazards and created in collaboration with the Phoenix Society for Burn Survivors. The series reminds everyone about the importance of taking action - at home and in the workplace - to help stop electrical incidents from happening. The videos and related resources such as fact sheets, tip sheets, and reports can be found at nfpa.org/facesoffire.

For more tips and resources including infographics, fact sheets, videos, and podcasts related to electrical fire safety, visit the NFPA electrical safety webpage.

Information about electrical codes and standards, and worker safety training, can be found on the NFPA electrical solutions webpage.

SCOUTS from page 1

cent deposits on the bottles, not to ban them, statewide," she said.

Dziura said the law would focus more on littering, with the troop adding how a deposit on soda cans in the past had helped curb the littering of them.

"If you have a five-cent deposit on it, that might encourage somebody to either not throw it out their window and bring it to somewhere where they can deposit it and get the five cents back or somebody else might see it and pick up and they can turn it in and get their five cents back. It's more focused on the littering side, but also people are worried about the drunk driving," Dziura said.

Brook said the root of the nip bottle issue is public safety. She added the importance of using your voice for good and "to influence actions that will benefit not only the environment and the younger generation" but for "the sake of everyone."

"I think, especially, in smaller communities, it's easier to have a noticeable voice. It's easier to have a loud voice that can get the attention of a lot of people," she said. "I think it's very important that we are doing this and kind of drawing attention to this, that this is going to leave an impression on the younger generation. This is what we're going to have to grow into."

Brook is hopeful.

"In the long run, I truly believe that it will make a significant difference and will improve the overall physical health of our community and the overall health of our environment," she said.

Demetri wants the community to come together and understand the reality of the situation.

"I hope that we can take care of our environment more since now that there will probably be less litter on the side of the roads," Demetri said. "I hope we can all pitch together as a community to help counteract that problem."

Dziura hopes the message gets out about the effects of nip bottles on the environment.

"I hope as we continue to do things like this, people start to understand our message and start to think about it a little bit more, and maybe the people who are littering and stuff will start to think about it differently and realize 'Maybe what I'm doing is not just a little thing that has no impact.' Because trash like this piles up so fast," Dziura said.

Mediterranean Cookbook available at Wilbraham library

WILBRAHAM – The next cookbook that will be offered for the Wilbraham Public Library's Cookbook Book Club is now available at the library: "The Complete Mediterranean Cookbook: 500 Vibrant, Kitchen-Tested Recipes for Living and Eating Well Every Day". The Cookbook Book Club will be meeting on May 15 in the Brooks Room at 6:30 p.m. Please register on the library website and state your chosen recipe (name and page number): www.wilbrahamlibrary.org.

Rick's Place to display the Honor Flag on May 17

WILBRAHAM – Join us on Wednesday, May 17 at 6 p.m. at Rick's Place to view the flag that became a symbol of hope for all Americans after the World Trade Center Tower attacks on 9/11.

This Honor Flag, and the accompanying marble cross, are being shared in communities as a memorial to the victims and first responders who perished in this tragic event. This is the last time the Honor Flag will visit New England. Rick's Place is named for Rick Thorpe, who died in the South Tower on 9/11. Our free grief support programs for families are provided in Rick's memory. Join

us to share this important moment.

For more information contact: Brian Miller at usmc8942@gmail.com (413)-378-8541 or info@ricks-placema.org

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VIEWPOINTS

Thank you to those who participated in Three Truck Event April 29

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who attended the Three Truck Event at The Hampden Senior Center on Saturday, April 29 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.. This very successful fundraiser which was held to support The Building Fund at the Senior Center was supported by The Hartsprings Foundation in West Springfield, Pro-Shred of Wilbraham and Gold Circuit E Cycling of Agawam.

Additionally a big Thanks to the volunteers from Bethlehem Church in Hampden for donating their time to us and the great help to clients with their items, lifting them from their cars and directing their donation to the correct truck. Also a special thanks to Dominick from St Cecelia's Church in Wilbraham for his volunteer time to us and for supporting this event as well.

The Friends of The Hampden Senior Citizens of the Senior Center provided this fundraiser to help raise funds and also to give a place for families to donate items which can no longer be used in their households. Without the participation from, Becky Moriarty, director of the Hampden Senior Center and the Friends of The Senior Center Board Members and YOU from Hampden and all the surrounding towns, this would not be so successful. Again Thank you.

As a reminder, The Hartsprings Bin will remain in location on the Hampden Senior Center Property. Any cloth items, whether it is clothing, towels, sheets, or kitchen items, books, or the like, can be placed in the bin. No text books or Encyclopedias can be taken and please, No Bed Pillows. If any item cannot fit in bin and assistance is needed, please contact Joan Shea at 413-566-8224.

Submitted by
Joan Shea, Hampden

Letters to the Editor

Christina Beckel for School Committee

I first met Christina in 2011 when our oldest boys became best friends in first-grade. She remains one of my most loyal friends to this day, which is why I am writing today to explain why I know Christina will make an excellent addition to our School Committee.

Christina is an involved parent to three boys in our school district who cares deeply about the education for all children, not just her own. This dedication to education led her to become a substitute teacher in our district. It was during her time as a substitute teacher where she saw first-hand some of the difficulties teachers and students face in the classroom. She realized she wants to help find solutions to these problems and to be an advocate for teachers, parents and students alike.

One of the things I love most about Christina, and the quality I feel makes her a smart choice for our School Committee, is that she is level headed. She is intelligent and passionate in her ideas, but respects others' opinions that may differ from her own. She's not afraid to advocate for what she feels is important, but also understands compromise is most often required and is what makes her most proud of being an American citizen.

Christina is determined to talk with as many teachers, students, parents and residents in our district to learn what is important to them. I urge you to attend one of Christina's meet and greets to learn more about her campaign, and to of course vote for Christina Beckel for School Committee on May 20.

Shelly Capen, Wilbraham

Jack Luttrell for the Planning Board

My name is Jack Luttrell. I've lived in Wilbraham for almost 38 years and retired from the Friendly Ice Cream Corporation. I have been active locally in the Wilbraham Community Association as a three-time president, a 30-year member, and a past chairman of the Wilbraham Peach Festival. Now that I have retired and no longer travel for business, I look forward to doing more volunteer work in our community. Currently, I am a volunteer driver for the Wilbraham Senior Center, and work on special projects at my church.

In my professional business roles, I have visited over 500 new restaurant locations all over the U.S. During these visits to different cities and towns, I was able to see both good and bad planning execution, with many of the poor planning results leading to serious traffic congestion or safety concerns. Both at work and in the Wilbraham community, I have been both a leader and member of many task forces and committees. I believe in doing proper due diligence and research, site reviews, and having the necessary debate and discussion to help ensure the best decisions for the citizens of Wilbraham.

I believe that the current zoning does a good job of keeping much of the business development on the Boston Road corridor and that helps to maintain the character of the town while building the tax base. In the future, Wilbraham residents will continue to want improved goods and services as needs change, and the Planning Board needs to strive to have a strategy of smart development.

The most important ongoing priority of the Planning Board is to ensure Public Safety in all matters that come before the board on a day-to-day basis. Matters of safety should be handled with urgency. I believe that the Planning Board needs to carefully review "high traffic" additions like the new Starbucks location on Boston Road because I have seen firsthand many accidents and close calls at other popular destinations like Dunkin Donuts and Rice's Fruit Farm.

I would be honored to serve the citizens of Wilbraham as the next member of the Planning Board.

John H. Luttrell Jr., Wilbraham

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Balance the federal budget? Sure, but it's tougher than you think



Comments on CONGRESS

By Lee Hamilton

There is a lot of discussion in Washington these days on what to do about the federal deficit. It continues to grow, and House Republicans in particular have made addressing it a key part of their agenda.

Early on, House Speaker Kevin McCarthy told his caucus that it would get a chance to vote on a 10-year pathway to a balanced budget at some point this year. More recently, though, GOP leaders have downplayed that expectation, instead arguing that they should focus on how to keep spending down as a short-term goal. And rank-and-file members are weighing in with their own plans, hoping to gain traction in the splintered GOP caucus.

None of this, though, takes into account the rough sledding Republican-favored proposals will face in the Democratic-led Senate, let alone negotiations with the White House.

While a balanced budget remains a potent talking point for many politicians, as well as for voters who worry about the impact of growing deficits, there's a reason that coalescing around a plan to make significant budget cuts – let alone reach a balance between federal revenues and expenditures – has proven so difficult. That's because it's not just brutally hard to achieve, but may be politically impossible. Especially if,

as both Democrats and Republicans have declared, cuts to Social Security and Medicare and possibly defense are off the table.

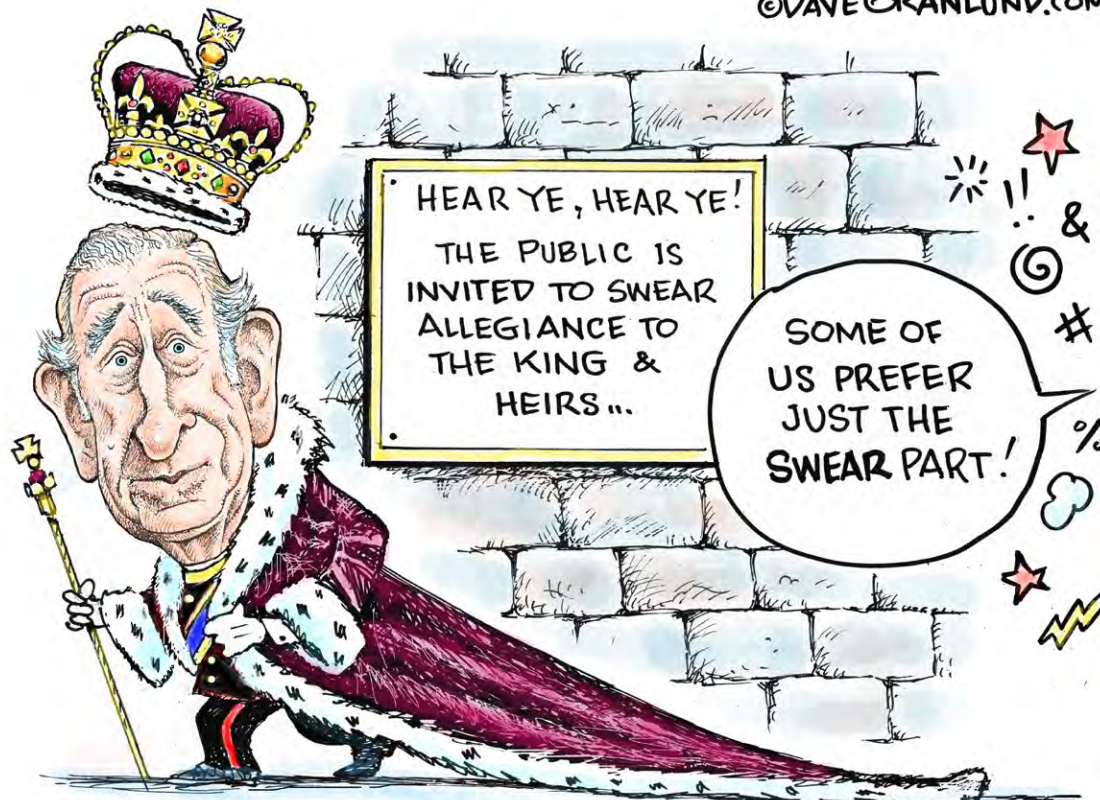
To understand why this is, I've found a New York Times article from the beginning of March quite helpful. In it, Alicia Parlapiano, Margot Sanger-Katz, and Josh Katz, reporters and graphics experts, lay out what it would take to reach a balanced budget in 10 years. For starters, they point out that taking things off the table – tax increases, say, or cuts to Social Security, Medicare, or the military – makes things exponentially more difficult.

If all of those were to be considered non-starters, then balancing the budget would require cutting everything else by 70%. That's everything from food assistance to retirement benefits for the military to transportation and agriculture subsidies and spending on law enforcement and education.

"Cuts of that magnitude," the trio write, "would mean the firings of most federal workers in agencies like the F.B.I., the Parks Service and the State Department, and huge reductions

Please see **HAMILTON**, page 7

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Editorial Policy

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

HAMILTON from page 6

in food assistance and military retirement.”

It's hard to imagine something like that could get through Congress.

But of course that means tax increases and changes to Social Security, Medicare and military spending would need to be part of budget discussions. And every one of them is politically tricky.

This hasn't stopped Republicans in Congress from making a stab at it. The Republican Study Committee, which gathers together most of the GOP caucus in the House, has a plan that relies on deep cuts to Medicaid and other non-defense spending, along with raising the Medicare eligibility age over time to 70, doing the same with Social Security, and reducing Social Security payments to higher-wage earners. The House Freedom Caucus, meanwhile, has its own plan, which involves capping spending at 2022 levels for the next decade, instituting new work requirements for welfare recipients, requiring a congressional OK on all major federal regulations and other changes.

If you try to look at the issue in a non-partisan manner, it doesn't appear any more palatable. The Times article notes that the Congressional Budget Office has a list of over 100 steps that could make a meaningful dent in the deficit. These range from increasing payroll taxes or creating a new tax on consumption to eliminating itemized tax deductions altogether to deferring spending on military hardware and eliminating some agriculture programs.

Each would spark a pitched congressional battle.

My point here is not to say that a balanced budget, or even significant steps to cut the deficit, is impossible. But as members of the House and Senate and President Biden stake out their positions and then get deep into negotiations, it will help to understand why those negotiations are likely to become tense and difficult.

The budget, after all, is the blueprint for how the government affects life in the U.S. Everyone wants to balance it, but making serious steps in that direction will require true sacrifice.

Lee Hamilton is a Senior Advisor for the Indiana University Center on Representative Government; a Distinguished Scholar at the IU Hamilton Lugar School of Global and International Studies; and a Professor of Practice at the IU O'Neill School of Public and Environmental Affairs. He was a member of the U.S. House of Representatives for 34 years.

Last Wilbraham TAB meeting of the year to occur May 15

WILBRAHAM – The Wilbraham Public Library's Teen Department announces the last Teen Advisory Board meeting of the school year, TAB Tie Die & Pizza Party, on Monday, May 15 from 4-5 p.m. Teens in grades 6-12 can sign up for a fun evening of making tie dye items and celebrating another year of TAB. Current Teen Advisory Board members are inviting all teens to join in the tie dye fun, outside at WPL! The Burncoat Center for Arts & Wellness will teach teens the basics of tie dye, using high quality professional dyes. Results will be vibrant and last forever.

Each teen needs to bring their own 100% cotton white item to tie dye (up to two per person). Examples include t-shirt, hat, shorts, pillowcase or sweatshirt. At event, all teens will be supplied with a cotton drawstring book bag to tie dye, if desired as one of their two items.

Teens should dress accordingly as dye may get on clothing.

Grades 6-12 only and free to participants. Pizza and drinks will be available. Online registration is required as space is very limited. Sign up at www.wilbrahamlibrary.org, events, teens or call 413-596-6141. This program is made possible by the Wilbraham Friends of the Library.

*In case of inclement weather, we will notify participants that rain date will be used. Rain date is Tuesday, May 23 from 4 - 5 pm.

Whisper Not musical performance

WILBRAHAM – Vocalist/flutist Sarah Clay, guitarist Draa Hobbs and bassist Steve Bulmer, who make up the award-winning musical trio StarCats, will be giving a live concert at the Wilbraham Public Library on Wednesday, May 10 at 6-7:30 p.m. in the Brooks Room.

Their music includes unique arrangements of Pop, Latin Jazz, Swing and Soul. This performance is supported in part by a grant from the Wilbraham Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Mass Cultural Council, a state agency. Please register for this event on the library website: www.wilbrahamlibrary.org.

Wilbraham Friends of the Library to hold spring plant sale

WILBRAHAM – The Wilbraham Friends of the Library is holding a plant sale featuring two varieties of annual. The sale will be pre-order only through May 10 with plant pick up on Saturday, May 13 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Wilbraham Public Library, 25 Crane Park Drive, Wilbraham.

We had so much fun at the plant sale last fall we are doing it again this spring! We are offering annuals - Begonias (pink or white) and Petunias. These are large plants in five-inch pots that are ready to plant and show off.

Plants are \$5 each and available by pre-order only. Deadline for orders is May 10 and orders will be available for pick up Saturday, May 13 from 11 to 1 at the library.

Pick up an order form at the library. You can also order by emailing friends@wilbrahamlibrary.org with your name and phone number. You will be invoiced and can pay through Paypal. You do not need to have a Paypal account to pay your invoice.

The sale is sponsored by the Wilbraham Friends of the Library which was established in 1973. The Friends of the Library fund programs for children, teens, and adults, as well as the library's popular Museum Pass program, furnishings, and other library equipment. For more information, contact the Friends at friends@wilbrahamlibrary.org.

Troop 359 to hold Annual Mother's Day Plant Sale

WILBRAHAM - Wilbraham Troop 359 will have their annual Mother's Day Plant Sale on Saturday, May 13 in St. Cecilia's Church parking lot from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sales and donations help pay for camping equipment, supplies, program materials, registration and activity fees throughout the year. People come and shop at the troop's plant sale year after year. The generous community support is greatly appreciated. Thank you from Troop 359. For more info, contact Lorna Lawrence 413-214-8771.

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SENIORS

Hampden Senior Center announces April events

HAMPDEN – The Hampden Senior Center, located at 104 Allen St., has announced the following events.

HELP US STOCK OUR SHELVES with Disinfecting Wipes!!

Thank you to those that donated dish soap last month. Every month we will target a different item to fill our shelves. People who qualify for SNAP are unable to use their benefits on nonfood items, so we hope this collection will help those most in need. Once the shelves are stocked, items will be available by request monthly. Call Wendy for details.

Due to space constraints, please refrain from purchasing warehouse-size items.

COMING SOON...

D & R FARM SUMMER FARM SHARE

D & R FARM is offering fresh produce twice a month, FREE with SNAP/HIP if you qualify! If you do not qualify for SNAP/HIP you may purchase a share for \$40 cash per month.

New applications for Summer Farm Share must be completed and submitted to Wendy by May 31.

May is Older Americans Month - Save these Dates:

Monday, 5/8 at noon

Lunch and Learn First Aid, and

hands-on CPR Training with Ashley Boudreau, BSN, RN

Wednesday, 5/10 at 9 a.m.

Free Breakfast and Interactive presentation entitled "Should I Stay or Should I Go."

Friday, 5/12 at 1 p.m.

Chair Volleyball Demonstration by East Longmeadow Council On Aging

Mondays, 5/15, 5/22, 6/5, 6/12 – 4-week session, 1-3 p.m.

UCLA Memory Training Program

Wednesday, 5/17 – 6 p.m.

Estate Planning with Attorney David Carlson

Friday, 5/19 at noon

Lunch and Learn Springfield College Lifelong Learning with Sara Namazi, PhD

Tuesday, 5/23 at noon

Free Lunch and Learn Pre Planning 101 with Forastiere Family Funeral & Cremation

Wednesday, 5/24 at 11:30 a.m.

Legislation 101 and Updates on Gaming with Robin Frechette from State Representative Brian Ashe's office and Jennifer Pickering from Senator Jacob Oliveira's office

Reservations for special events, new classes, and Grab & Go Dinners will be taken on the first day of the month, on a first-come, first-serve basis.



"Where are my keys??" "What is the name of the woman who lives next door to me?" The questions become more frequent as we age. They can be the signs of a simple aging brain, or they can be indicators of a chronic disease process that will progress. In every case, we tend to worry about the "what if's". In many cases it is our fear that prevents us from seeking further evaluation. From a medical point of view, the assessment of cognitive function is a complex process that can be impacted by many variables such as age, medical history, medications, amount of sleep, alcohol consumption, vitamin B12 levels, and some thyroid, kidney and liver disorders. Emotional states can also impact our ability to remember and complete cognitive tasks. Stress, anxiety, and depression can affect how much we "remember". Also acute states such as grief due to the loss of a special person, pet, job or ability has an impact on our cognitive function.

For our long term, optimal health, it is important to understand: How much "forgetfulness" is too much?

In general, if your keys are not in the dish near the door where you, by habit, put them, but are found in your coat pocket or the floor of the garage, is a less serious issue than if they are found in the refrigerator! If the woman next door just moved in, rather than someone who has lived next to you for 10 years and is someone you socialize with, cut yourself some slack!

If you are trying to determine whether your memory issues are "the norm" for someone your age...make sure you are comparing yourself to "someone your age" and not how your brain was functioning at the age of 40, or your sister who is 8 years younger than you, or your teenage granddaughter when she comes

to visit!! It is important to realize that many of the reasons for cognitive decline as you age are reversible!! If you are worried about memory problems, see your primary care provider!! Some simple lab tests and depression screening can identify some easily treatable causes. Cognitive changes due to emotional problems will likely improve as the anxiety decreases, depression is treated, or the grieving process progresses. Help in the form of support groups, counselling and at times, medications will help to relieve the symptoms. In some cases, medications that you take for other medical conditions can be adjusted for dose and or timing of the meds.

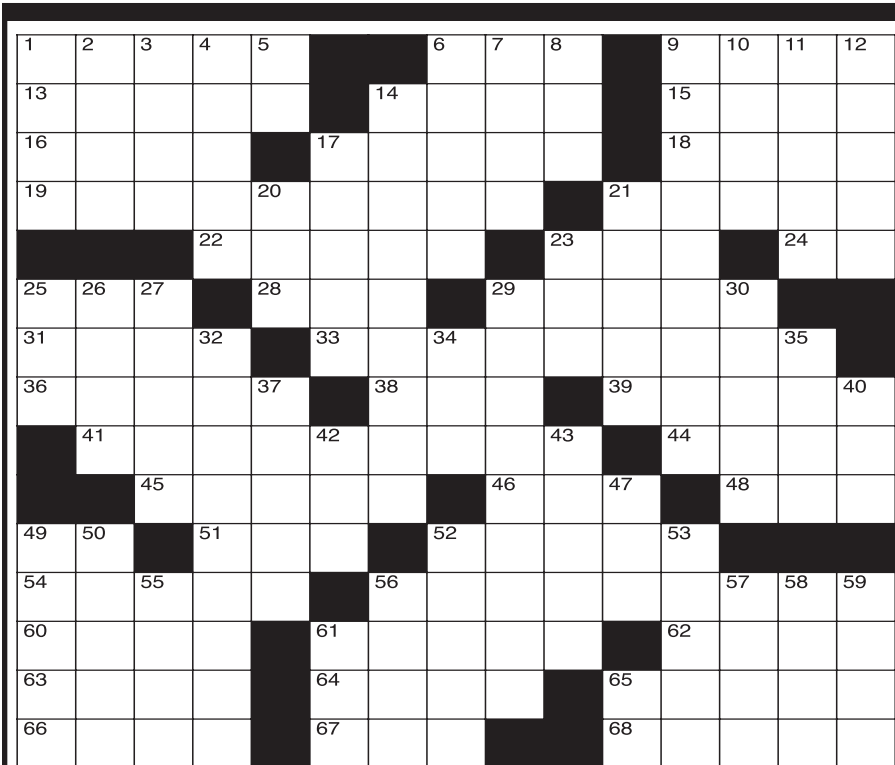
You may be referred to a provider who specializes in problems related to the brain and central nervous system who will conduct a more thorough evaluation of your symptoms. If indeed it is determined that you suffer from mild cognitive impairment or dementia, it does not automatically mean you will be diagnosed with or progress to Alzheimer's Disease. What it will mean is that you are alerted to this issue and can use strategies to lessen the effects of cognitive impairment on your day to day life. This will keep you healthier and independent longer and maximize the quality of your life.

We will take a closer look at Mild Cognitive Impairment, Dementia and Alzheimer's Disease in a future article.

In the meantime, as always, feel free to send questions/ comments to seniorinfo2021@gmail.com or leave a voicemail at 596-2800 ext 315. Don't Forget!

Linda Tatko Cooper

For the Wilbraham Senior Center Building Committee



CLUES ACROSS

1. Dull and flat
6. Baking measurement (abbr.)
9. Education-based groups
13. Not behind
14. Runners run them
15. Japanese ankle sock
16. Grave
17. Japanese industrial city
18. People of southern Ghana
19. Particular designs
21. Device fitted to something
22. Infections
23. Pirates' preferred alcohol
24. Expression of sympathy
25. Rock guitarist's tool
28. Neither
29. Ancient city of Egypt
31. You __ what you sow
33. Ruined
36. Narrations

38. Body art (slang)
39. Fencing sword
41. Apartment buildings
44. Type of missile
45. Fathers
46. Extremely high frequency
48. Type of school
49. Incorrect letters
51. Two-year-old sheep
52. Nasty manner
54. One who accepts a bet
56. Indian prince
60. Asian country
61. Rhythmic patterns in Indian music
62. "Uncle Buck" actress Hoffmann
63. Detailed criteria
64. Son of Shem
65. Talked wildly
66. Discount
67. Not good
68. Growing out

CLUES DOWN

1. Actor Damon

2. A call used to greet someone
3. Part-time employee
4. Emaciation
5. "Westworld" actor Harris
6. Gains possession of
7. Relaxing spaces
8. 23rd star in a constellation
9. Northern grouse
10. Monetary unit of Bangladesh
11. Manila hemp
12. Unites muscle to bone
14. Makes deep cuts in
17. 18-year period between eclipses
20. Member of a people inhabiting southern Benin
21. Synthetic rubbers
23. Unwelcome rodent
25. Expression of creative skill
26. Some is red
27. Seems less in impressive

29. Harry Kane's team
30. Gland secretion
32. Action of feeling sorrow
34. Disallow
35. Deceptive movement
37. More dried-up
40. Crimson
42. Actress Ryan
43. Adherents of a main branch of Islam
47. Accomplished American president
49. Side of a landform facing an advancing glacier
50. Sheep breed
52. Appetizer
53. Broadway actress Daisy
55. Influential film critic
56. NY Giants ownership family
57. Type of script
58. Assist
59. London park
61. Bar bill
65. In reply indicator

Planning for Medicare – Countdown to 65

WILBRAHAM – Need help understanding your Medicare health insurance options? Planning for Medicare-Countdown to 65 is a no-cost seminar taking place at the Wilbraham Public Library in the Brooks Room on Monday, May 8 at 3:30-4:30 p.m. The seminar helps you understand your Medicare health insurance options outside of your employer-sponsored coverage, whether or not you're planning to retire.

This is a presentation and discussion led by Luisa Lewis, a Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts representative in collaboration with the Wilbraham Public Library. Topics include Medicare Parts A & B, Medicare enrollment timeline, Medicare Part D prescription drug plans, and plans and programs available to early retirees, such as COBRA. Please register on the library website: www.wilbrahamlibrary.org.

Polanie Club to hold Bingo Card Party

LUDLOW – The Polanie Club will hold a Bingo Card Party on

Monday, May 8 at 6:30 p.m. at the Polish American Citizen's

Club 355 East Street, Ludlow. Everyone is Welcome to attend.

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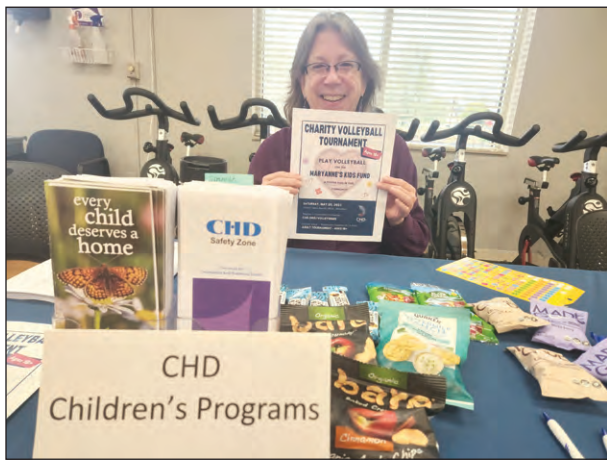
Haiti Meal Re-Packaging event to occur May 19 at St. Cecilia Parish

WILBRAHAM – Saint Cecilia Parish of Wilbraham’s outreach committee, called the “Hope Committee”, which stands for “Help Our Parish Expand” is again sponsoring the third annual Haiti Meal Re-Packaging event.

The community is invited to participate on Friday, May 19. Registration is at 3 p.m. at the parish center at 42 Main St. and meal re-packaging will conclude around 7 p.m. St. Cecilia Parish members raised just over \$12,000 to bulk purchase each of the

100-pound bags of the several types of meal ingredients, which when re-packaged, will result in producing just under 30,000 family-sized meals, which will feed a family of four for one day. The value of each family-sized meal is about \$.35

each. All volunteers must be at least 18-years-old and there are both standing and sitting jobs available. For more information about the event, please call Katy Reed at 413-495-2547.



Rhonda Young, program director for children and families at the Center for Human Development, at her table during Healthy Kids Day. Young is holding a flyer promoting the upcoming Charity Volleyball Tournament for the Maryanne’s Kids Fund on Saturday, May 20, also taking place at the Scantic River Valley YMCA. (Staff photos by Kristin Rivers)



(L to R) Stacy Dussault, her sons Lucas and Logan and her mother, Susan Lusignan, meet Toto the cat at the Healthy Kids Day event. The family also received autographed books from Toto and Brimfield Fire Department Paramedic and author Jonathan Hall.



Brimfield Fire Department Paramedic and author Jonathan Hall signs one of his books as Toto the cat sits on the table waiting for more families to visit during the Healthy Kids Day event at the Scantic Valley YMCA.

YMCA from page 1

spiration behind the children’s book “Toto the Tornado Kitten.”

“It’s a chance to give back and the Y is a great organization that helps local kids and adults,” he said. “It was a great day to come out for healthy kids and to see all the events and stuff.”

Hall added, “Wilbraham’s a great community. The Y is part of that community, and I’m excited to be part of it.”

Penny Bertolasio came with her two grandchildren, Evelyn and William. Their daycare promoted the event and encouraged them to check it out.

“It’s a great event for kids and providing that awareness of a lot of things,” she said.

Bertolasio said they enjoyed the obstacle course with volunteers from the Young Marines, the Scholastic Book Fair, Falcetti Music, Toto the Cat and the fire truck and police car.

She added community events like Healthy Kids Day support the development and safety of children.

“It really helps support the development and the safety of kids in the area. I think this is a great event to get out into the community and to have support for the kids based on nutritional and safety facts and drug prevention,” she said.

Sheila Colon Santos is a stress management facilitator and clinician at Western Mass MOMS Partnership. She’s looking to build relationships for moms in the area and share more about their programs for moms and caregivers, pregnant mothers included.

“As a program, we really like to collaborate with other agencies in the community. By being able to do that, one, we can bring out our program to this community and the moms here and then, also, build relationships with the agencies that are out in the community so we build a resource kind of community for our moms when they need those resources,” she said.

Dawn Lapierre, healthy living director for the YMCA, said Healthy Kids Day “is a national movement” for the organization and “falls right within the mission of” providing resources promoting social responsibility, education and health.

“For us, it’s just another event where we’re able to collaborate with the community and bring in resources



(L to R) Sheila Colon Santos, clinician and stress management class facilitator, and Norca Brgos, community mental health affiliate nurse and enrollment specialist, from Western Mass MOMS Partnership at the Healthy Kids Day event at the Scantic Valley YMCA. Colon Santos and Brgos spoke with moms and caregivers about their resources including stress management support.

because we work together,” Lapierre said. “It’s just to make our region a better place to live, a better place to raise families and expose families to the different resources that are here that they might not know of.”



(L to R) Lynne Howlett, treatment coordinator, Paige Lockhart, office manager, Dr. Michael Margolis and Laura Caron, schedule coordinator, of Margolis Orthodontics at the Healthy Kids Day event at the Scantic River Valley YMCA. The local business provided information on their services and free goodies to families.

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A COMMUNITY GALLERY



Hampden Selectman visits Rotary Club...

As guest speaker, Hampden Selectman Don Davenport (right) receives a gift from Wilbraham-Hampden Rotary Club Vice-President Peter Salerno at the club's April 27 meeting at the Country Club of Wilbraham. Davenport said both Hampden and Wilbraham are sharing challenges of citizen participation in town government. (Photo courtesy of Charles F. Bennett)

Life in & **WILBRAHAM**

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

On April 24, Hampden Police Officer Kevin Connor was sworn in as the department's newest part-time officer. He comes to the department with over 30 years of experience from the Agawam Police Department. Pictured is Selectman Don Davenport, Sgt. Yvon, Officer Connor and Selectman Craig Rivest. (Photo courtesy of the Hampden Police Department)



The Wilbraham Police Department participated in Healthy Kids Day at the Scantic Valley YMCA on April 29. (Photos courtesy of the Wilbraham Police Department)



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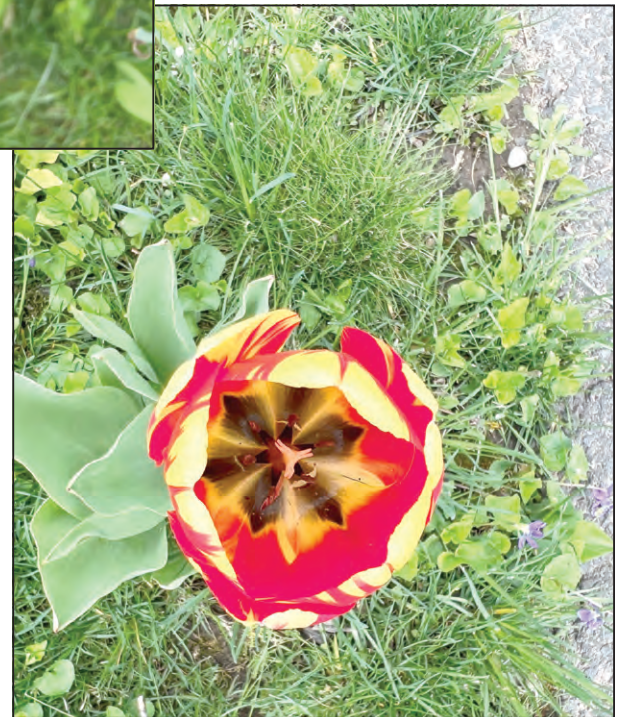
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Donna Gregory of Wilbraham submitted these photos of her tulips.



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State Rep. Ashe announces Hampden office hours

HAMPDEN – A staff member from State Rep. Brian Ashe’s (D-Longmeadow) office will be available to meet with residents at the following locations:
Hampden Senior Center on 5/24, 6/28, 7/26 and 8/23 from 11 a.m. to noon.
Hampden Library on 5/10, 6/14, 7/12 and 8/16 from 11 a.m. to noon.
If you are not able to attend and have an issue or concern, please contact Chief of Staff, Robin Frechette, at 413-272-3922 for assistance.

Women educators group holding scholarship benefit tag sale

The tag sale benefits Greater Springfield area high schools
WILBRAHAM - A scholarship benefit tag sale will be held at Grace Union Church on Friday, May 12, and Saturday, May 13 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
The DKG Society International for Key Women Educators Alpha Chapter Massachusetts is hosting the tag sale. The group promotes the professional and personal growth of women educators and excellence in education.
The Spring Blowout Sale will have clothing, toys and games, household goods, jewelry and more.
Proceeds from the tag sale benefit the Greater Springfield area high schools.

BHN to host Vendor Fair for local licensed contractors and tradespeople

SPRINGFIELD – Behavioral Health Network, Inc. will host a Facilities Vendor Fair and Networking Event on Friday, May 12 from 1-3 p.m. at the organization’s Liberty Street Campus, 395 Liberty St., Springfield. Local licensed contractors, subcontractors and tradespeople are encouraged to attend.
BHN is seeking local licensed vendors, including diverse, women and veteran-owned businesses, for upcoming projects. The event will be held outdoors under a tent, and vendors will learn about BHN vendor needs, upcoming projects and the organization’s procurement process. Vendors will also be able to set up tables to network with one another.
Companies and individuals in the following trades are encouraged to attend: Abatement; carpentry; demolition; drywall; electric; flooring; general contractors; glass/windows; HVAC; landscaping; painting; plumbing; restoration; and roofing.
For more information and to register, visit bhninc.org, or access the registration form directly at Lead.me/bhnfair. Vendors are encouraged to drop by the event anytime between 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. Those who are unable to attend but are interested in working with BHN on future projects or would like to learn more about the procurement process should also complete the online form at Lead.me/bhnfair, and will be contacted by a BHN representative.
The Vendor Fair will be held rain or shine, and refreshments will be provided, along with a raffle. For questions or more information, contact Dejuan Brown at (413) 541-9707 or dejuan.brown@bhninc.org.
BHN has been providing behavioral health services to children and families in Western Massachusetts since 1938. The agency provides community-based services that include innovative, integrated whole-health models as well as traditional clinical and outpatient and therapeutic services, day treatment, addiction services, crisis intervention, and residential supports.

Green Meadows School announces Term 3 Honor Roll

HAMPDEN - The following students received Honor Roll status for Term 3 at Green Meadows School.

Eighth-Grade High Honors
Brielle Foisy, Caitlin Hebert, Jayne Quackenbush, Gracie Smith

Eighth-Grade Honors
Jason Abeid, Kiera Connors, Haley Powers, Dominick Tessier

Seventh-Grade High Honors
Emmy Foisy

Seventh-Grade Honors
Emilia Imbriglio, Layla Lozano, Ashley McDonald, Daizy McDonald, Alejandro Munoz Kopczynski, Arianna Soler, Kylie Walters

Sixth-Grade High Honors
Madeleine O’Sullivan

Sixth-Grade Honors
Isaias Molina-Millan, Juan Alfonso Tamayo

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SCHOOLS

Wilbraham Middle School Honor Roll

WILBRAHAM – The following students received Honor Roll status for the Term 3 marking period at Wilbraham Middle School. Distinguished Honors is all A's in all subjects; Honors is all A's and/or B's in all subjects.

Distinguished Honors – Grade 8

Elizabeth Espinal, Alyssa Fortune, Ella Gagliarducci, Olivia Gencarelli, Naomi Griffin, Eliana Gunn, Eric Henderson, Madelyn Hopkinson, Amelia Kellogg, Isabella Kirton, Abigail Lee, Reese Magee, Molly Michels, Chelsea Ortega, Riddle Patel, Ainsley Patterson, Natalie Petit, Collin Purcell, Lauren Roberts, Layla Rosati, Cameron Salvador, Dillon Shaugnessey, Norah Smith, Tyler Supczak, Kaleb Sweetman, Mason Thayer, Faith Trombly, Grace Trombly, Hope Trombly, Sarah Rose Walsh, Thomas Worm

Honors – Grade 8

Isaac Abergel, Gana Abuata, Brooke Beadling, O'brien Chen, Eli Childers, Ivy Christensen, Annabella Cianfone, Barbara Luyza Costa, Addison Derosia, Tucker Derosia, Ava Disa, Angelina Dunn, Isabella Esteves, Nicholas Garib, Sara Gonzalez, Ryan Haber, Lucy Haile, Richard Hale, Jacob Hall, Liam Harrigan, Jacob Hisgen, Paige Holt, Carson Humphries, Kadence Illig, Ryan Jacobsen, Liam Kiernan, Gabriel Kishinevski, Isabella Lafield, Peter Langone, Teagan Lawor, Molly Lynch, Nola Malmberg, Cameron Maziarz, Mary McGrath, Liam Metzger, John Morley, Nicholas O'Sullivan, Shiv Patel, Jack Paterno, Kayla Pecoy, Nicholas Pelletier, Anthony Powers, Karolina

Robles-Maurer, Sydney Rocha, Jillian Rubner, Jack Rumprik, Quinn Salerno, Jolena Sanchioni, Ava Scatolini, Leayjah Serju, Oliver Serra, Moira Shannon, Savannah Sheerin, Landon Sheerin, Alison Souza, Andrew Stark, Sophia Sundheim, Grayson Sweet, Logan Thomas, Brayden Tugie, Owen Tzoumas, Isabella Usher, Drew Weinberg, Kei Williams, Jade Wong-Vallejo

Distinguished Honors – Grade 7

Peter Appleby, Rama Awkal, Aidan Bean, Seth Beebe, Caroline Euber, Maxwell Fergus, Nora Fletcher, Nicholas Gencarelli, Ashley Griguoli, Demetrius Holmes, Keira Horne, Brooke Johnson, Tia Kayrouz, David Kim, Peyton Lee, Savannah Lee, Dylan Lesure, Adriana Lopez, Dominic Mascaro, Isadora Maurice, Clare McMahon, Dylan Niznik, Liam O'Brien, Patrick O'Toole, Brenan Rost, Jillian Rumprik, Hailey Scliopou, Ava Secor, Ryan Semanie, Lillian Sergienko, Alysandra Serju, Anna Taylor, Ormandy Velazquez, Joseph Woytowicz

Honors – Grade 7

Addison Baldyga, Mia Balog, Cole Balog, Taylor Bartosz, Bryce Beckel, Nicholas Capen, Jayden Carattini, Annalecia Carlo, Maximus Cayo, Gavyn Clark, Irelyn Coffey, Joseph Comes, Colin Devanski, Chase Folli, Gianna Fusco, Jackson Gagner, Mario Garcia, Corrine Gates, Brennan Gliesman, Eliza Gloss, Hayden Gloss, Maura Guertin, Cristian Guzman, Jaden Gyan, Danika Haygood, Daniel Heinold, Parker Hoey, Mason Howard, Jeffrey Hurley, Kelsey

Jennings, Genevieve Johnson, Tony Kayrouz, Emma Lacoste, Ashlyn Landry, Rose Langone, Cameron Lowe, Jacob Luttrell, Yman Ly, Ryan Mackie, Olivia Maserati, Elijah Mathias, Ellie McRobbie, Mylie Mittler, Juliana Mooney, Frank Morin, Luke Nichols, Gianna Nowicki, Sophia O'Connor, Youngsun Oh, Geoffrey Ohemeng, Tristan Oliveira, Owen Petit, Domenic Roach, Caden Russ, Hussein Saleh, Riley Senecal, Gabriel Solowski, Audriana Stasio, Michael Sullivan, Joseph Sullivan, Elliot Sylvester, William Szpakowski, Keyan Tiderman, Jillian True, Jeyzion Walter, Juliana Washington, Adelle Williams, Olivia Zheng

Distinguished Honors – Grade 6

Teddy Acquah, Sireen Awkal, Margaret Babb, Thomas Brogle, Nolan Burke, Benjamin Butts, Jason Cao, Nolan Carney, Charlotte Castellano, Juliana Coffey, Emilia Connors, Ava Cowles, Madelyn D'Amore, Brynn DeForest, Nathan Demetri, Amelia DePace, Kayla Dooley, Sadie Dos Santos, Liam Doyle, Grace Falzone, Charlotte Fitzgerald, Kathryn Fulton, Eva Gagliarducci, James Gallagher, Evan Gilmartin, Aviana Gomez, Olivia Goodrow, Nicole Grabowski, Teaghan Haluch, Max Harrigan, Elle Hersman, Isabel Horne, Tyler Hoskinson, Alexandra Jaslanek, Elizabeth Jourdain, Aurora Kirton, Stephanie Labadorf, Jillian Lajeunesse, Willis Lam, Christie Lang, Owen Lucarelle, Ashley Manning, Michael Murray, Cohen Nelson, Ava O'Connor, Owen Piquette, Lara Riberdy, Logan Richard, Sierra Rocha, Jackson Rust, Kaleigh Sheehan, Adrielle Sheridan,

Kayla Smith, Abigail Stachowicz, Ian Stratton, Peyton Sullivan, Sean Tillberry, Nathaniel Tirabassi, Maya Usher, Mason Waskiewicz, Caitlyn Wetherbe

Honors – Grade 6

Goudy Abuata, Zakaria Ardolino, Emerson Atkin, Alison Aucoin, Evan Barcome, Charlotte Beaulieu, Lauren Beaulieu, Christian Bernardes, Bailey Burgmyer, Xavier Catellier, Ashlan Closser, Miles Connolly, Nolan Costello, Ryan Criscitelli, Oliver Cunha, Ellen DiNino, Owen Downey, Keeley Doyle, Christopher Duby, Samantha Engel, Dina Ferrentino, Austin Fortune, Colby Genovesi, Judah Gunn, Kaleigh Harper, Cole Harris, Lauren Hoar, Kate Holt, Ted Holt, William Kern, Kaitlyn Labadorf, Aubrey Lafield, Makailyne Laird, Sophie Laliberte, Daniel Lareau, Angelina Lemelin-Bliss, Griffin Litchfield, Noah Magill, Elizabeth Maserati, Jackson McCullough, Joy Mendonca, Noah Metzger, Emily Meunier, Gavin Meunier, Louis Morin, Charlotte Moses, Adalyn Murray, Karina Ocampo, Brayden Pacifico, Hannah Palmer, Jack Parastatidis, Olivia Parent, Kenisha Patel, Ava Pelloso, Cameron Powers, Megan Pronovost, Calvin Quintana, Mason Quintana, Camden Rodrigues, Colton Rogers, Annelise Roszko, Ava Rowe, Evelyn Santaniello, Quintis Saviengvong, Marcello Severino, Emmett Shattuck, Liam Shattuck, Olivia Spiller, Kyle Stebins, Tenleigh Stewart, Mason Stonacek, William Stromwall, Liam Sutherland, Nicholas Tracy, Addison Trosky, Nora Tzoumas, Annelise Waldron, Shannon Wietecha, Camden Winiewiczfg

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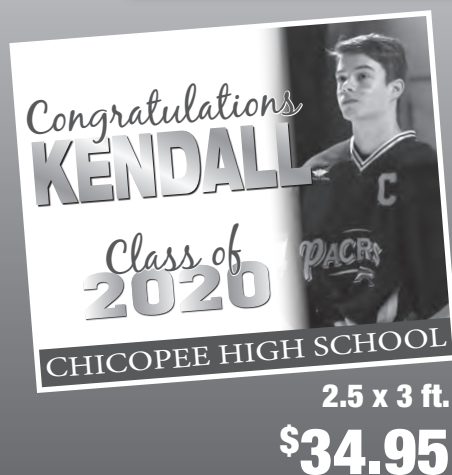
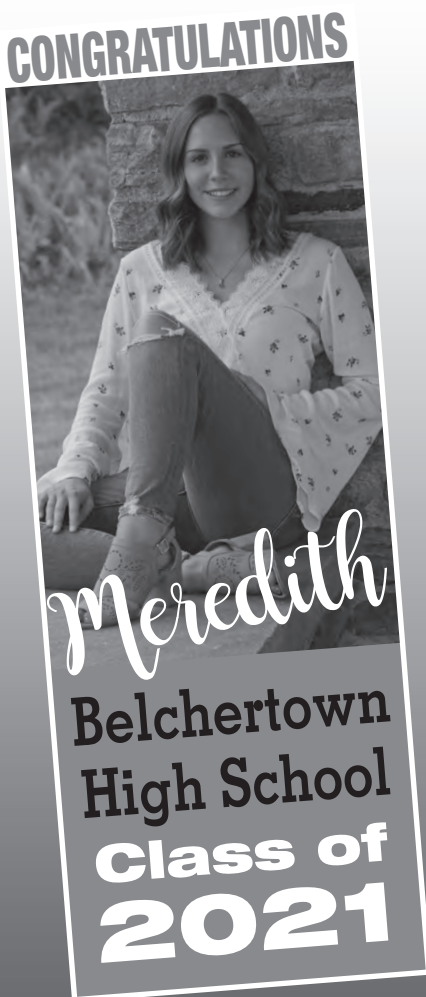
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Events & announcements schedule

Wilbraham Friends of the Library Clothing and Household Textile Drive to benefit all

WILBRAHAM – Wilbraham Friends of the Library, a non-profit committed to raising funds for the Wilbraham Public Library, is holding a clothing drive on Saturday, May 6 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. and on Sunday, May 7 from Noon to 5 p.m.

With millions of pounds of clothing and household textiles ending up in U.S. landfills each year, the Friends are working to raise awareness of waste and inspire consumers to take responsible action through donations and upcycling.

The Friends will receive a per pound payment for these items which will go directly to the library for programs, museum passes, equipment and other needed items. The donated items will be given a second life with new owners – at an affordable price - instead of adding to the already overwhelming landfill situation.

Join us with your clothing drive donations on May 6 or 7, learn more about the Friends, and receive a coupon for a free book at our Annual Book Sale which is scheduled to take place from June 7-10.

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.

Run for Rice's 5K Road Race set for June 3

WILBRAHAM – The 11th annual “Run for Rice’s 5K Road Race” will be held on Saturday, June 3 at 9 a.m. This popular, family-friendly 5K road race begins at Christ the King – Epiphany Church, 758 Main Street, Wilbraham, MA, and winds through a flat, fast course in surrounding neighborhoods, ending at Rice Fruit Farm across the street from the start. Pre-registration fee for runners and walkers is \$20, while day-of-race registration is \$25. Ages 18 and under registration is \$15 including day-of registration. The first 150 registered runners by May 20 will receive our famous race t-shirt featuring the “Running Apple” logo, and all registered runners will receive a free Rice Fruit Farm ice cream with their bib number on day of race only. Cash prizes will be awarded in several categories, and all proceeds benefit the Rice Nature Preserve maintenance fund of the Minnechaug Land Trust. Race day registration will be open from 7:30-8:45 a.m. On-line registration now available at RunSignUp.com, and paper registration forms can be downloaded at the Minnechaug Land Trust website www.minnechauglandtrust.org.

tration is \$25. Ages 18 and under registration is \$15 including day-of registration. The first 150 registered runners by May 20 will receive our famous race t-shirt featuring the “Running Apple” logo, and all registered runners will receive a free Rice Fruit Farm ice cream with their bib number on day of race only. Cash prizes will be awarded in several categories, and all proceeds benefit the Rice Nature Preserve maintenance fund of the Minnechaug Land Trust. Race day registration will be open from 7:30-8:45 a.m. On-line registration now available at RunSignUp.com, and paper registration forms can be downloaded at the Minnechaug Land Trust website www.minnechauglandtrust.org.

Rotary Club to hold another Calendar Raffle

WILBRAHAM – The Wilbraham-Hampden Rotary Club is holding another Calendar Raffle throughout the months of May and June to raise money for local community projects. Calendars will be on sale now through the end of June for \$10 each and are available from any club member.

The raffle is different from the one held last fall in that only cash prizes will be awarded. Prizes will be awarded every day of the month of June. “There will be a winner every day. That gives every entry many chances to win,” announced club president Tracey Perry of Country Bank. To purchase a calendar contact Perry at 413-627-2571 or email Happytral6@gmail.com. All proceeds will be given back to the community through various service projects and scholarships.

Museum to hold first Open House May 7

WILBRAHAM – The first Open House of the season at the Old Meeting House Museum in the center of Wilbraham will be held on Sunday, May 7 and will feature historic photographs collector Joe Roberts as guest speaker.

Roberts will speak in the Wilbraham & Monson Academy Chapel, at the corner of Mountain Road and Main Street, next door to the museum at 2 p.m.

Following Roberts’ talk, refreshments will be served on the porch of the Museum. The Museum, operated by the Atheneum Society of Wilbraham on behalf of the town, is free and open to the public. The main entrance to the building has recently undergone construction of a new ramp at the front of the building to make the museum more accessible.

Prior to the program, Jeff DeMarey of the Wilbraham Hill Climb Re-enactment will give a brief preview of the historical May 13 antique auto event.

The Guest Merchant for the May 7 Open House will be Wilbraham Candle Co. debuting the Candle Company’s new fragrance named after the museum, “The Old Meeting House Candle”.

For more information about the museum or the Wilbraham Atheneum society email president@wilbrahamatheneum.org.

Plowing the Community Garden’ event to be held May 6

WILBRAHAM – The Wilbraham Community Garden proudly announces the 13th Annual “Plowing the Community Garden” event with special guests from the Eastern Connecticut Draft Horse Association and several other Draft Horse owners. This event will take place on Saturday, May 6 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Wilbraham Community Garden located at 700 Monson Road in Wilbraham.

There will be several teams of Draft Horses preparing the soil the slow old fashioned way utilizing walking and riding plows. Vendors include Heart & Hustle, Stony Hill Farm, Little Oak Farm, King & Queen Spiritual Elements and others. The list of vendors grows every day. We will have food and beverage available for purchase. 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.

‘It’s a Spring Art Thing’

HAMPDEN – The Scantic River Artisans invite you to experience, explore and purchase the diverse hanging art and the unique artisan creations at their upcoming Art Show. It will be held in the Community Room at the Hampden Senior Center at 104 Allen Street, in Hampden. The two-day show will be on May 6 (10 a.m. to 4 p.m.) and May 7 (11 a.m. to 3 p.m.). There will be a reception on May 7 from noon to 2 p.m.

Garden Club Plant & Bake Sale to be held May 13

WILBRAHAM – The Wilbraham Garden Club is holding their annual Plant & Bake Sale on Saturday, May 13 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on the grounds of the Wilbraham Library (located off Main Street behind the Veterans Memorial at Crane Park).

The sale will have perennials, annuals, hanging baskets, herbs, potted plants

ready for Mother’s Day gift giving and a variety of sun loving and shade plants as well. The bake sale will include cakes, pies, breads, muffins, cookies and various homemade goodies. This is the club’s major fundraising effort of the year, which enables the club to lend monetary support to many projects that enhance life in Wilbraham. For more information contact Christine Scibelli, Chair for the event at (413) 596-3355.

Minnechaug Class of 2003 reunion to be held May 20

WILBRAHAM – The 20-year class reunion for the Minnechaug Regional High School Class of 2003 is being held at the Wilbraham County Club on May 20 at 6 p.m. Tickets can be purchased online before May 6 at: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/20-year-class-reunion-for-minnechaug-class-of-2003-tickets-505021983347> Any questions can be directed to me, Ryan Hanofee at 413-262-2597 or ryan.hanofee@morganlewis.com

Hampden Senior Center Trips

HAMPDEN – The senior trip “Cruise on the Cape Cod Canal” will happen on Tues, June 13; all-you-can-eat lunch at Mezza Luna Restaurant before our narrated cruise; a stop at Wright’s Dairy Farm & Bakery all for only \$125/pp. Payment deadline May 31.

A tribute to Garth Brooks at the Log Cabin will entertain us on Wed, July 12 with your choice of Lobster or Prime Rib for lunch all for only \$85/pp. Payment deadline June 23. No bus, Self-Drive.

A great trip to The Aqua Turf Club on Tues, Aug 15th for “Come Fly with Me”, a musical journey through the decades; coffee/donuts, free drink, lunch, show & door prize, all for only \$119/pp. Payment deadline Aug 1.

On Tuesday, Sept. 12, start the day with a great lunch a Maggiano’s Little Italy in Boston; the Fun begins when you board your Boston Duck Boat for a fascinating tour, including background info on the Ducks, Free Time in Quincy Market, all for only \$140/pp. Payment deadline Aug. 29.

Any questions/for more info call Bobbi at 413-566-8271.

Newport Playhouse on Thursday, Sept. 28 is offering a Hilarious play “Ghost of a Chance”, along with an All-u-Can-Eat Buffet and a second Cabaret Show, all for only \$142/pp. Payment deadline Sept. 14.

Above prices based on a minimum of 35 passengers; any questions/for more info call Bobbi at 413-566-8271

Wilbraham-Hampden Times

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Falcons exact revenge against Brownies



Abby Peyman fields the short hop at first base.

AGAWAM – After a defeat in Wilbraham a few weeks ago, it was a much closer game between Agawam and Minnechaug softball. A late run gave Minnechaug a 3-2 in Agawam to even the series 1-1 this year between the two teams. They will possibly meet again come tournament time. In the win, Grace Fallon had a hit and drove in two runs for Minnechaug. Madison Pajak had two hits and an RBI for Agawam. Kylie Circosta pitched a complete game, allowing three runs on six hits with seven walks and 13 strikeouts. Mackenzie Blair went the distance for Minnechaug. She allowed two runs on seven hits, walked three, and struck out 11. Agawam is 7-5 this season while Minnechaug is 6-5



Amy Dunklee swings and connects for Minnechaug.



Photos by Gregory A. Scibelli
Mackenzie Blair winds and fires for Minnechaug

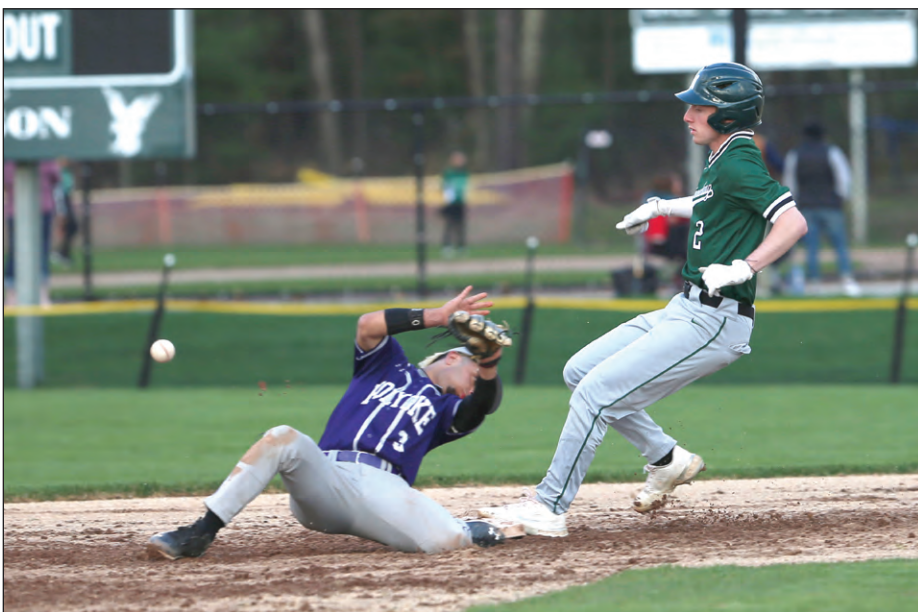


Abigail Provost fields a base hit down the left field line.



Angelina Cross lays down a bunt for the Falcons.

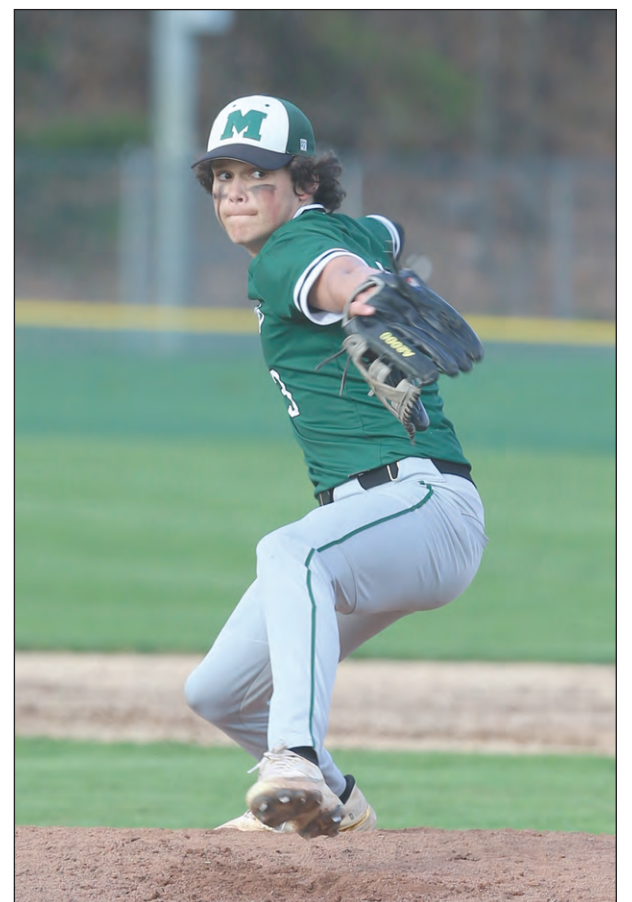
Harrigan's three hits lead Falcons to win



Benjamin Langone reaches second base safely on a bad throw.

Davis Nelson pitches for Minnechaug.

Photos by David Henry
www.sweetdogphotos.com



WILBRAHAM – Tim Harrigan had three singles and two RBI along with three runs scored in Minnechaug's 16-6 win over Holyoke last Monday. Vince Chiarizio had two hits and four RBI and three others had two runs scored each to help the Falcons get the big win. Davis Nelson pitched five innings, getting the win allowing five runs on four hits, three walks and five strikeouts. Minnechaug got things going with a seven-run bottom of the first. They finished it off with a five-run fifth to invoke the mercy rule. Minnechaug is 6-3.



Bryce Barlow makes a throw from short to first.



John Fitzgerald sends the ball back to the infield.



Nicolas Disa makes an off-balance catch at first base.

Falcons suffer first defeat

WILBRAHAM – After some big wins early this season, Minnechaug boys lacrosse finally suffered its first loss of the season, falling against Pope Francis 12-6 last Tuesday afternoon. Thankfully, the Falcons would bounce right back with a

17-7 win over South Hadley, their second win of the season against the Tigers.

In the victory, Isaiah Kozub had five goals and five assists for 10 total points. Charlie Hartin, Nick Boudreau, and Mat Wurszt had three goals each in the win.

T-Birds make large donation to Rays of Hope

SPRINGFIELD – The Springfield Thunderbirds announced a donation of \$30,000 to the Rays of Hope as a result of proceeds from the live jersey auction during the T-Birds' 6th Annual Pink in the Rink game on March 11.

Thunderbirds President Nathan Costa and Vice President of Sales & Strategy Todd McDonald presented a check to the Rays of Hope earlier this week inside the MassMutual Center. This year's Pink in the Rink game set new records for total funds generated, and the MassMutual Center came out in full force with a sixth straight "Pink" night sellout crowd of 6,793.

Established in T-Birds' inaugural season in 2016-17, "Pink in the Rink" serves as a kickoff to the Rays of Hope fundraising efforts each March to shine a light on breast cancer awareness outside of the traditional October awareness month. Each year, the fundraising efforts culminate in the annual Rays of Hope Walk & Run in October. Since the establishment of this staple night, the Thunderbirds have generated more than \$100,000 for the Rays of Hope Foundation, all of which stays local in Western Massachusetts in hopes of finding the cure.

Proceeds from this donation were raised primarily via the post-game live jersey auction, as every Thunderbirds player had his jersey sold to directly benefit the Rays of Hope. In addition, Chris Hayes, General Manager of Oak View Group Hospitality, the food and beverage partner for the MassMutual Center, contributed toward the donation total through the sales of Pink Whitney beverages throughout the evening.

"Pink in the Rink once again proved to be one of the most special nights of our historic season," said Costa. "We share in the Rays of Hope Foundation's pride for our community and our fanbase for their steadfast support year in and year out. We

want to congratulate the Rays of Hope on their 30th anniversary and are proud to continue such a meaningful partnership that celebrates so many brave women and men in Western Massachusetts who have not only survived breast cancer but also thrived in generating awareness through their Rays of Hope family."

"We're sending our signature big pink hug to the Springfield Thunderbirds and their fans for illuminating HOPE in our community," said Kathy Tobin, Director of Annual Giving and Events for the Bay-state Health Foundation. "As we kick off Rays of Hope's 30th Anniversary, we reflect on those who have helped us get to this moment. We may not have a cure for breast cancer yet, but we have made life-saving breakthroughs in treatment and the research continues. Importantly we have a big extended family of support here in western Massachusetts. Thank you to the T-Birds for lifting our survivors up!"

Since its inception in 1994, Rays of Hope has raised over \$16.6 million to support the women and men living in western Massachusetts touched by breast cancer. Funds also support vital research at the Rays of Hope Center for Breast Cancer Research.

The T-Birds Foundation was established in 2018 with a mission of serving the Springfield community and the Pioneer Valley beyond every win and loss through a focus on providing and supporting initiatives in the areas of health and wellness, youth enrichment, and civil service. During the 2022-23 season, the T-Birds Foundation raised more than \$131,000 for charitable causes in Western Massachusetts.

This year's Rays of Hope Walk & Run Toward the Cure of Breast Cancer will be held on Sunday, October 22. For more information, visit Baystatehealth.org/Rays-of-hope or call 413-794-8001.

Run for Rice's 5K Road Race set for June 3

WILBRAHAM – The 11th annual "Run for Rice's 5K Road Race" will be held on Saturday, June 3 at 9 a.m. This popular, family-friendly 5K road race begins at Christ the King – Epiphany Church, 758 Main Street, Wilbraham, and winds through a flat, fast course in surrounding neighborhoods, ending at Rice Fruit Farm across the street from the start. Pre-registration fee for runners and walkers is \$20, while day-of-race registration is \$25. Ages 18 and under registration is \$15 including day-of registration. The first 150 registered runners by May 20 will receive our fa-

mous race t-shirt featuring the "Running Apple" logo, and all registered runners will receive a free Rice Fruit Farm ice cream with their bib number on day of race only. Cash prizes will be awarded in several categories, and all proceeds benefit the Rice Nature Preserve maintenance fund of the Minnechaug Land Trust. Race day registration will be open from 7:30 a.m. until 8:45 a.m. On-line registration now available at RunSignUp.com, and paper registration forms can be downloaded at the Minnechaug Land Trust website www.minnechaug-landtrust.org.

Registration open for 2023 Bay State Games

WOBURN – Registration for the 41st annual Bay State Summer Games is now open. The 2023 Summer Games will include thirty sports with competitions from June 3 to July 29 at venues throughout eastern and central Massachusetts including Game On in Fitchburg, Boston Sports Institute in Wellesley, Union Point Sports Complex in Weymouth, and New England Sports Center in Marlborough. 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.

Eight high school showcase sports will take place for a variety of sports, including baseball, basketball, field hockey, ice hockey, lacrosse, 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, archery, judo, 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 girls lacrosse, rugby, and 6v6 field hockey.

The 2023 Summer Games will feature Game On in Fitchburg as the host venue for 8 sports. Bay State Games expects 1,500 athletes and their families to attend competitions at Game On during the second week of July. "We are excited to expand the roster of sports being held at Game On this year," said Kevin Cummings, Executive Director of the Bay State Games. "This state-of-the-art facility allows us to enhance the athlete and spectator experience and provide a true Olympic-style multi-sport atmosphere for our participants."

An additional feature in 2023 is that in over a dozen sports, athletes who win a gold, silver, or bronze medal at the 2023 Bay State Games will qualify to participate in the 2024 State Games of America in San Diego, California. The State Games of America feature more than 8,000 athletes from over 30 different state games programs nationwide. To see the list of qualifying sports, please visit www.state-gamesofamerica.com.

In addition to sports programming, Bay State Games offer college scholarships, a sportsmanship initiative, college internship opportunities, and a High School Ambassador program.

For more information on all sports in the 2023 Summer Games, links to online registration, and information on other programs, go to www.baystategames.org.

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

Roster spots remain open in Quabbin League

More players are needed for the Quabbin Valley Over-28 Baseball League as it seeks to infuse new talent into its league for the 2023 season.

The league recently held its open practice, but still has plenty of open roster spots remaining to fill for the 2023 season.

Registration for the 2023 season remains open and any interested players can go to www.quabbinvalleybaseball.org to get registered, or to seek more information or make inquiries about the league. The league website will also be updated over the next month with information about the upcoming season.

The season is scheduled to begin on Sunday, April 23. The league plays most Sunday from late April through late August with playoffs following that. The league plays a 15-game schedule and typically

fields six teams each year. Games are usually played at 10 a.m. with fields in Easthampton and South Hadley normally used.

The Quabbin Valley league is an all abilities league and all are welcome to join. Eligibility is players who are age 28 and over. You must be 30 to be eligible to pitch in the league. Your age for eligibility is whatever age you will turn in 2023.

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WINGS from page 1

As for the butterflies that visited the senior center, none had ever been to the conservatory.

“So they don’t know they are being released into 8,000 square feet when they get home. That’s what we do; we take newborn butterflies with us and then we let them go when we get back to Magic Wings,” Fiore said.

Fiore is perhaps most touched when she encounters a youth that shows a great interest in the species she’s presenting. She noted that Magic Wings curator Fred Gagnon has been playing with bugs since he was three-years-old.

Regarding the success of Magic Wings, Fiore said it’s as simple as people loving nature and butterflies

in particular.

“Butterflies are really symbolic; not just beautiful. They mean a lot to a lot of people personally and so being able to come share that with people of all ages just keeps me going,” she said.

For the children who arrived from Green Valley Preschool & Daycare, the experience must have felt like a once in a lifetime; in fact, many of them had never been on a bus before.

“I’m hoping the bus driver sneaks in a little round about so we get a little bit longer bus ride just to take advantage,” said Program Director Traci Croteau.

Croteau said the school has been participating in an outreach program

with the senior center, where the children send out arts and crafts.

The visit to the senior center was the school’s first field trip in three years. Croteau was pleased with how the children reacted to a new, strange environment.

“I think they feel safe. In this day and age, I think that’s important,” she said. “I think our kids handled it pretty well, being around people they didn’t recognize. That whole stranger danger piece. But I love bringing the young and the old together. I think it helps everything. So many people are smiling here today, it’s amazing.”

(Staff photos by Dalton Zbierski)

Children from the Green Valley Preschool & Daycare joined seniors at the senior center last Wednesday for a butterfly presentation.



PUBLIC NOTICES

WILBRAHAM PLANNING BOARD The Wilbraham Planning Board will hold a Public Hearing on Wednesday, May 24, 2023, at 6:00 PM in the Town Office Building, 240 Springfield Street, on the application of Amp Energy for a Special Permit as required under Sections 3.4.3.7 and 10.7 of the Wilbraham Zoning By-Law to allow modification of a prior special permit (SP18-06) for a large-scale ground-mounted solar energy system on property owned by ASL Three Rivers Land Holdings LLC

located at 285 Three Rivers Road to allow an extension of the deadline to complete work as well as project modifications including changes to stormwater design, grading, landscaping, and location and configuration of equipment pads as shown on information on file in the Planning Office and posted for public viewing on the Planning Board page of the Town of Wilbraham website at www.wilbraham-ma.gov/123/Planning-Board. Both in person and virtual participation are available. To participate virtually go to https://meet.

goto.com/338451845 or call 877-309-2073 (Access Code: 338-451-845). John McCloskey Chair 05/04, 05/11/2023

WILBRAHAM BOARD OF APPEALS PUBLIC HEARING The Wilbraham Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a Public Hearing on Thursday, May 18, 2023 at 5:45 PM on the application of Matrissa Crapps and India Kyles for a special permit under section 3.4.5.14 of the Wilbraham

Zoning By-Law to allow Unit #1 of the existing building on property owned by Resource Development LLP located at 1964 Boston Road to be leased for use as a fitness studio as further specified in the application on file in the Planning Office and posted for public viewing on the Zoning Board of Appeals page of the Town of Wilbraham website at www.wilbraham-ma.gov/135/Zoning-Board-of-Appeals. Both in person and virtual participation are available. To participate virtually go to https://meet.goto.

com/259097525 or call 866-899-4679 (Access Code: 259-097-525). Edward Kivari Jr., Chairman 05/04, 05/11/2023

PUBLIC NOTICE This ad is pursuant to MA Gen. Law Ch.255, Sec. 39A as of May 12, 2023 the following motor vehicles will be for sale to satisfy a garage keepers lien:

2004 Honda Civic VIN: 2HGES16574H585171 COLOR: Green LKO: Kiana Carter

7801 Roosevelt Ave. Apt. 78 Philadelphia PA 19152

2017 Hyundai Elantra VIN: 5NPD74LF8HH212762 COLOR: Silver LKO: Deborah Magill 53 Champlain Ave Indian Orchard MA

R & S Assoc. Inc. Wilbraham MA 413-596-4374 05/04, 05/11, 05/18/2023

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While the decision to get into keeping an aquarium is a personal one it is important to have a full understanding of what it entails. We are all different therefore, we all must individually decide whether having fish as pets is right for us or not. We highly recommend speaking with experts who can answer all your questions and guide you along the way. Locally we have "School of Fish" with experts on both fresh water and salt water tanks. Stop in and learn before making your final decision. Having an aquarium can be a joy to own and care for but be prepared and well-informed so that you have a positive experience.



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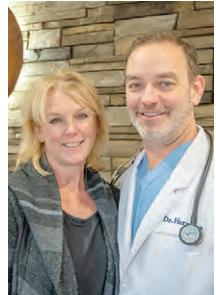
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Hannah Belcher-Timme, DVM
Denise Chiminiello, DVM
Leah Guidry, DVM
Madison Harris, DVM



Amy Zander &
Andrew Hersman, DVM

Wilbraham Animal Hospital
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413.596.8395
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SINGLE FAMILY LISTINGS				
STATUS	ADDRESS	DESCRIPTION	LIST PRICE	SOLD PRICE
ACT	160 Canterbury Rd., Springfield	7 room, 4 bed, 2f 1h bath Colonial	\$430,000	
ACT	15 Rogers Ave., West Springfield	9 room, 5 bed, 2f 0h bath Colonial	\$390,000	
CTG	37 Woodland Dr., Hampden	6 room, 3 bed, 1f 0h bath Cape	\$284,900	
CTG	48 Brimfield Rd., Monson	8 room, 4 bed, 1f 0h bath Cape	\$314,900	
UAG	50 Joy St, Chicopee	7 room, 3 bed, 2f 0h bath Colonial	\$279,000	
UAG	10 Murray Ct, East Longmeadow	6 room, 4 bed, 1f 0h bath Cape	\$249,900	
UAG	14 Franconia, Springfield	7 room, 4 bed, 1f 0h bath Cape	\$249,900	
UAG	748 Grayson Dr., Springfield	6 room, 3 bed, 1f 0h bath Ranch	\$256,870	
SLD	160 Millbrook Dr, East Longmeadow	8 room, 3 bed, 3f 1h bath Cape	\$659,900	\$645,000
SLD	44 Hollow Rd., Hampden	8 room, 4 bed, 2f 0h bath Multi-Level	\$654,900	\$652,000
SLD	381 Rondeau St., Palmer	8 room, 4 bed, 2f 1h bath Colonial	\$290,000	\$325,000
SLD	6 Michigan St, Springfield	3 room, 1 bed, 1f 1h bath Cape	\$196,900	\$182,000
SLD	122 Osborne Ter., Springfield	8 room, 5 bed, 2f 1h bath Raised Ranch	\$349,000	\$355,000
SLD	11 Ingersoll Grove, Springfield	12 room, 7 bed, 4f 1h bath Colonial	\$425,000	\$390,000
CONDOMINIUMS LISTINGS				
SLD	1 Mansion Woods Dr. U:D Agawam	4 room, 2 bed, 1f 1h bath Townhouse	\$242,000	
SLD	162-B Monson Rd U:162B Wales	5 room, 3 bed, 1f 1h bath Half-Duplex	\$230,000	\$238,000
MULTI FAMILY LISTINGS				
SLD	18-20 Kendall St., Springfield	2 unit, 14 total rooms, 6 total bedrooms 2 Family - 2 Units Up/Down	\$229,900	\$239,900
LAND LISTINGS				
ACT	0 Springhouse Rd., Hampden	0.72 Residential acres (31,531 SqFt)	\$87,000	
ACT	Lot 1 Silver, Monson	2.83 Residential acres (123,274 SqFt)	\$84,900	
ACT	0 Old Reed Rd., lot:6, Monson	8.50 Residential acres (370,260 SqFt)	\$99,000	
UAG	4 Hilltop Park Wilbraham	20.20 Residential acres (879,930 SqFt)	\$259,900	
SLD	0 Dinis Ave., Ludlow	0.94 Residential acres (40,906 SqFt)	\$139,900	\$120,000

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