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Brewery seeks pour permit

By Ben Hernandez
Staff Writer

WILBRAHAM — Scantic River Brewery sought the Select Board's approval on April 27 for both a farmer's winery pouring permit and to gain the ability to serve beer and wine on their premises.

"We will be considering the price to be paid for this permit," Chair Michael Squindo said. "Because this is the first time we're actually seeing this request, so there's a bunch of things that we're considering in this request as well."

Squindo opened the public hearing by asking for a "little bit of background on the request."

Brewery owners David Avery and David Buel were in attendance to explain.

"We've been serving primarily our craft beer, which included seltzer and malt beverages," Avery said. "We want to expand that into wine and the cider license, which is part of the farmer brew license series. So, we applied for that and we got those applications or licenses from the state and federal. Now we're just here to get the pour permit. There's two pour permits there. One to allow us to pour wine there and the other is combine it with the wine and the beer. So, there were two different applications."

"What is a farmer's winery?" Vice Chair Marc Ducey said. "Help me understand what that is."

"So, Massachusetts has a farmer brewer license, which is malt beverages, which includes seltzers and that," Avery said. "And then they have a farmer wine series, which is when you can actually produce."

"So, you're going to produce this wine. This isn't just wine that you're buying," Ducey said.

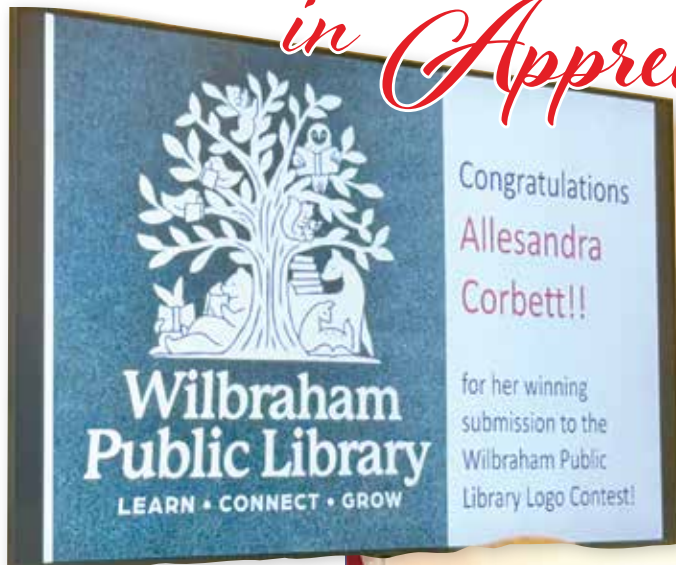
"So, we have the license to do that, but we're partnering up with another local winery," Avery said.

After additional questions from Clerk Sue Bunnell, Town Administrator

Please see **BREWERY**, page 15

WPL celebrates volunteers

in Appreciation Breakfast



By Kristin Rivers
Editor
krivers@turley.com

WILBRAHAM - The library celebrated its volunteers during their Annual Volunteer Appreciation Breakfast in the Brooks Room on April 25.

The event included remarks from Director Melissa Harter, State Sen. Jake Oliveira (D-Ludlow), Select Board Chair Michael Squindo, Library Trustee Chair Barbara Galanek and Assistant Library Director Mary Bell—who also organizes the annual celebration every year—along with honoring Library Trustee Cheryl Wesolowski, who is departing from the trustees after 9 years. Also, announcements on upcoming events.

The library's new logo was also unveiled, a design created by Allesandra Corbett.

Harter listed the varying tasks volunteers do, including shelving books, tending the

gardens, helping out and organizing programming, maintenance, the Teen Advisory Board, the Friends of the Wilbraham Public Library and their fundraising events such as the Book Sale, Plant Sale,

Clothing Drive and many more.

"You contribute more than labor, all of you. It's more than that. It's imperative that you're here, but I want you to know the emotional support

that you provide to the staff, your generosity and time really helps us. Volunteerism is a key component to the defini-

Please see **BREAKFAST**, page 10



Turley photos by Kristin Rivers
Cheryl Wesolowski with her gift from the Wilbraham Public Library. She's departing the Library Trustees after 9 years and was honored at the breakfast.

WSC Paranormal Presentation:

Who Goes There?

By Patricia Sullivan
Correspondent

WILBRAHAM — There is an unusual amount of paranormal activity at Wilbraham's historic Taproom Bar & Grill on Boston Road, according to Rob Goff Sr., the founder and director of Agawam Paranormal.

Goff related his account of his 2014 investigation of the Taproom as well as the stories of two other of his team's investigations to a capacity crowd of 200 people at the Wilbraham Senior Center on May 1.

Deb Gormley, who organized the event for the Friends of Wilbraham Seniors, attributed the large turnout to people's curiosity about ghosts, spirits and other paranormal phenomena.

"I could not believe the interest, especially among seniors whose spouses have passed away," Gormley said. "It's not scary things, like a poltergeist, it's a feeling that the spouse is there with them."

Goff started Agawam Paranormal 19 years ago as a family project and made his presentation at

Please see **PARANORMAL**, page 9

Meet the School Committee Candidates for Hampden

By Kristin Rivers
Editor
krivers@turley.com

HAMPDEN - There are two candidates running for one seat to represent the town of Hampden on the School Committee.

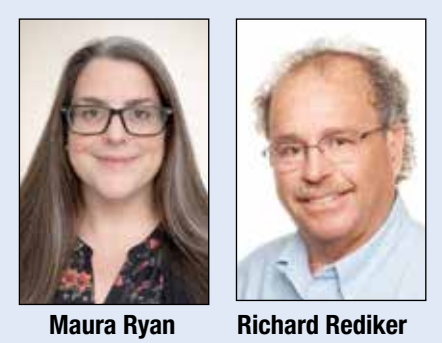
The candidates are Richard Rediker and Maura Ryan. Rediker currently serves on the School Committee, while Ryan had served from 2019 to 2023 and was also the committee's vice chair for three of those four years.

Richard Rediker

Rediker shared how "education and working with/

for students have been my passion for 58 years."

"After teaching chemistry at Longmeadow High School for seven years, I founded an international software company, Rediker Software, basing it in Hampden. Rediker Software has worked with schools in all 50 states and in over 130 countries," Rediker said. "I have been fortunate to visit schools and attend educational conferences around the world, bringing my insights



Maura Ryan

Richard Rediker

back to our school district. In fact, just this past week, I visited schools in rural South Africa and chatted with their chemistry teacher about his 68 students in a single class and no lab for practical experience."

Rediker also added this. "All three of my daughters attended our schools from K to 12. I rejoined the School Committee decades later with no agenda other than using my experience to help provide the best possible education for our students," Rediker said.

For him, experience is what inspired him to run for the School Committee.

"As stated in the previous answer, I ran for the School Committee to use my experience to help provide the best possible education for our students," Rediker said.

Rediker noted the successes are the opportunity

to serve alongside his colleagues and working with the school administration.

"I am proud to serve with my amazing colleagues on the School Committee and to work with the incredible administration team of our district. While each person has their own views, everyone works together as a team with one goal: to provide the best possible education to the students in our district," Rediker said.

As for improvements, he noted these areas.

"However, educational

Please see **CANDIDATES**, page 5

Selectboard receives \$90K for town hall security upgrades

By Kristin Rivers
Editor
krivers@turley.com

HAMPDEN - The Selectboard has received \$90,000 in state funding that will support security improvements for the town hall, helping reinforce safety, accessibility and day-to-day operations.

The board received the check during their April 27 meeting when State Sen. Jake Oliveira (D-Ludlow) stopped by to present it.

Oliveira had secured the money in the FY26 state budget alongside State Rep. Brian Ashe (D-Longmeadow), which will support the town of Hampden in implementing a modern electronic access control system throughout the

town hall, including key fob entry and zone-based security measures.

Also, installing a comprehensive security camera system across the building and include 30 to 45 days of video storage, live monitoring for authorized personnel and potential integration with the regional dispatch center, which Hampden is a part of with the towns of Belchertown and Wilbraham.

Oliveira explained how "there were priorities that each one of us have for the communities that we represent," and that he represents 12 communities.

"Hampden is one of my smaller communities, but certainly, a very important part of the district and, also, given

the challenges that a lot of our small towns face right now, we understand that even some small dollars can go a long way to help out," Oliveira said. "And that's why working with Brian and members of the Selectboard last year, we wanted to make sure that we prioritize projects that you might have that could be one-time in nature, and given the change to this new Town Hall and the old Thornton Burgess Middle School—our town—we wanted to make sure that we helped with some of those one-time costs."

Oliveira said that understanding "that in order to retrofit buildings that tend to be a few decades old, there are

Please see **UPGRADES**, page 10



Photo courtesy of Jennifer Pickering
From the left, Selectboard Member Erik Vanderleeden, State Sen. Jake Oliveira (D-Ludlow), Selectboard Chair John Flynn, Selectboard Member Don Davenport and Town Administrator Brian Domina with the \$90,000 check.

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Hampden Public Library holds Eco Expo

By **Natalie Proulx**
Correspondent

HAMPDEN – The library held their annual Earth Day Eco Expo at the new town hall on April 25, featuring many different organizations, local vendors/businesses, animals, and activities for the town.

Upon arrival, you're greeted with five baby goats from Cloverbrook Farm in East Longmeadow. The adorable Coolada, Sprinkles, Macchiato, Espresso and Dunkin are all named after different Dunkin Donuts treats.

Within a gated area, attendees were able to hold and play with one of the five baby goats. On top of goats, Cloverbrook Farm also brought a pony to the event, which attendees were able to take turns going on pony rides.

The mission of the Hampden Eco Expo is to promote sustainability and the building of community as a whole. "It's a fine day to celebrate Mother Earth," Library Director Ellen Moriarty said. "And support local vendors to go green."

Vendors in all categories from food to body products to handmade trinkets, promoted the value of having an item that is local and made with love, building that true connection between customer and creator.

There were many activities for all ages and interests at the Expo too.

Two 10-15 minute yoga sessions were hosted during the event with Sue and Mark-Kendrick, the Hampden Public Library's Yoga Instructors that host Yoga For Everybody, Yoga Nidra, and Meditation classes, free of charge to the public. If you're interested in attending one of their events, the next Yoga For Everybody session is May 7 at 6 p.m. at the library or you could attend one of the next two Thursday sessions they have for this month.

The Hampden Friends of the Library also hosted

a book sale within the Eco Expo event with hardcovers costing just \$1 dollar each and soft covers 50 cents, doing their part to make education more affordable.

They also sold bookbags for \$5 dollars each to help fundraise for the program that provides all the activities at the library for the public, free of charge.

A popular attraction of the Eco Expo was their Buy Nothing Tag Sale that puts into action the act of "One Man's Trash is another man's treasure," allowing attendees to go and get rid of items that they may have just thrown away and let the people who might be interested in them take them, free of charge.

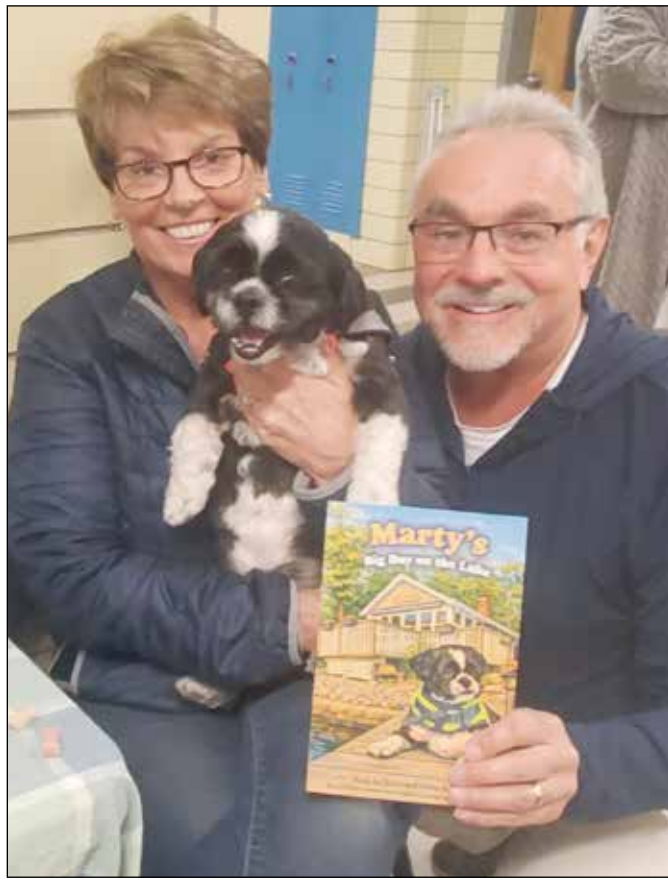
Those who had registered beforehand had set up their cars with their trunks open for displaying the items.

"It's a tag sale without the hassle," one of the participants said.

The new community room was also an important part of the event, with Captain Kindness, Kim Converse and Chick Chick, as well as the Hampden Historical Society and the Friends of the Hampden Senior Citizens all made an appearance, talking with attendees. Another strong indicator of community is the fire department's support in displaying fire safety helping little ones hold a fire hose and aim it at a structure.

On top of sustainability alone, the Expo and its activities/vendors promote a healthy quality of life. With organic treats made without the preservatives, vegetable plants from Wild Roots Farm, and clean body lotion made with extra virgin Italian olive oil, a good quality of life is having the goods that serve you not be covered in fine print.

It also takes its time to educate the members of the town on certain lifestyle choices they could make to improve not only their own quality of life, but the preservation of earth itself.



Turley photos by Natalie Proulx
Puppy Marty and his book on his many adventures.



Wild Roots Farm and their sapling stand with mini art canvases.

"By helping yourself in making good decisions, you're helping the world," a two-year attendee of the Eco Expo said.

With the Girl Scouts making an appearance to educate the public on recycling and a

Learning to Sew class with Talia to promote hand made items, even tree saplings were available to tend to the Earth in light of Earth Day.

A demonstration of portable and clean energy solar panels wrapped in an important message and the book that inspired the day. The novel "The Story of Stuff" by Annie Leonard, outlines just that, the story of stuff. From basic material, to production, to shipping and handling, back to Mother Earth in a landfill, it outlines the cycle of how items are made and the reality of their disposal.

The book on sustainability serves to teach the reader how to live more sustainably to not only help themselves, but help the planet.



The Hampden Friends of the Library Book Sale Display.



Turley photo by Kristin Rivers

Hampden Free Public Library Director Ellen Moriarty riding the Cloverbrook Farm's pony.



'The Story of Stuff' animation and presentation.

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Meet the School Committee Candidates for Wilbraham

By Kristin Rivers
Editor
krivers@turley.com

WILBRAHAM - There are two candidates on the ballot to fill two seats to represent Wilbraham on the School Committee.

The candidates are Dr. Michael Tirabassi, who currently serves as vice chair of the committee, and William Metzger Jr.

Sherill Caruana will not be running for reelection, creating two open seats this election cycle.

Michael Tirabassi

Tirabassi reflected on his current term when asked about his qualifications to serve.

"As a candidate for reelection, I have almost three years of experience serving on the School Committee. Prior to the start of my term, I also served on the Finance Committee for the town of Wilbraham. I've found my experience on the Finance Committee has often brought unique insight from a town finance perspective to our budgetary discussions on the School Committee. In particular regarding the differing strategies the town uses to fund both the school district operating budget and capital expenses," Tirabassi said. "During my term on the School Committee, I attended the annual meeting of the Massachusetts Association of School Committees yearly. This meeting is incredibly educational. I have worked hard to bring back what I have learned and apply it to my work on the School Committee. You can read about a good example of this in my answer to question number three regarding the MSBA core building program."

Also, his education background.

"Finally, I am an educator. In my current position as a pediatric surgeon at Baystate Children's Hospital, I serve as an Associate Professor of Surgery at UMass-Baystate-Medical School. My responsibilities in the role include educating medical students and residents, as well as mentoring junior faculty members," Tirabassi said.

Tirabassi noted his advocacy for children as what inspired him to run.

"As a pediatric surgeon, I am an advocate for children. My service on the School Committee is a natural extension of that. I also believe strongly in public education, and this belief is rooted in the lifelong experience of my entire family. My mother was a public school English teacher and myself and my three younger brothers are all products of public school education," Tirabassi said. "All five of my children have been students in the HWRSD school district and four of them are Minnechaug graduates. So, I hope you can appreciate that I truly try to practice what I preach. The quality of education in HWRSD is not something we should take for granted. The children need people willing to stand up and fight for it, and I am one of those people."

When asked about the successes of the past year and what he'd like to see for improvements, Tirabassi said this.

"I am proud to report the school district has just applied, with the support of both the Wilbraham and Hampden Selectboards, to the MSBA core building program for



Michael Tirabassi William Metzger Jr.

the regional middle school. One of the biggest challenges our school district faces is the physical plant for regional middle school education. The Wilbraham Middle School is the current home to middle school education in our school district. The building was built in 1968 to serve as the junior high school (grades seven and eight only) for the town of Wilbraham. It is now serving middle school education (grades six, seven and eight) for both Hampden and Wilbraham," Tirabassi said. "There just is not enough space in the building to serve this role. There is no library as the library space has been repurposed to serve as classroom space. Some closets in the building have also been repurposed to serve as classroom space."

He also noted the building condition at WMS.

"In addition, the condition of the building itself is failing. For example, every major system in the building is beyond its expected life span and needs replacement, asbestos tiles are cracking and peeling up, and walls are literally cracking. Currently, the building is owned by the town of Wilbraham, which makes capital expenses the responsibility of Wilbraham. The needs of the building, either renovation with addition or replacement, appear to far ex-

ceed the financial capacity of the town of Wilbraham," Tirabassi said. "If accepted by the program, the MSBA core building program will help the school district come up with the best plan to address these serious challenges, and even more importantly help with the cost. My hope is that with the assistance of the MSBA we will ultimately be able to tackle these costly challenges as two towns united with the financial assistance of the state. Our children and educators desperately need a middle school that is safe and conducive to the great education that our school district is known for."

Tirabassi also shared that addressing the rising cost of education as another goal for his term.

"The second biggest challenge our school district faces is the rapidly rising cost of education. Inflation, coupled with the rising cost of health insurance, has been driving crippling increases to the school budget each year. Further, the assistance from the state fails to keep pace with these rising costs. Every year, this shifts a greater piece of the financial burden to the taxpayers in our towns. The school budget being presented at town meetings this year includes a little over \$2.2 million dollars of cuts to services. While the school committee worked hard to minimize the impact of these cuts by minimizing layoffs, there was no way to make such a substantial budgetary cut without some impacts," Tirabassi said. "We need to continue to lobby the state for increases in funding to our school district. The formu-

las they use to calculate the 'needs' of a school district are broken. Our district, like most school districts in the state, is classified as minimum aid by their formula. We send a lot of tax revenue to the state, we need to demand that our towns, especially the school district, get more of it back."

And finally, working to contain costs.

"We also need to continue to work to contain costs wherever we can. For example, in next year's budget, we are looking at over an 11% increase in the cost of insurance. An 11% increase in the cost of health insurance is not sustainable for our towns. We are members of the Scantic Valley Regional Health Trust. We need to lobby them to do a better job to contain rising costs through contract negotiations and, if needed, through the offering of alternative health plans," Tirabassi said.

William Metzger Jr.

For Metzger, he noted his public policy background for his qualifications.

"I have worked in public policy and education for the last 25 years, including time at the State House working in both the House and Senate for Gale Candaras and as a public educator. I went out to teach, coach lacrosse, and advise clubs at Minnechaug. After leaving Minnechaug, I became a building level school administrator, and am now Superintendent of a Central Massachusetts District," Metzger said. "My wife and I felt so strongly about the strength of the HWRSD school system that we moved here 11 years ago with our young family and have four children that attend schools in the district. I have a lot of knowledge and experience around education issues gen-

erally, and specifically, to the HWRSD."

On what inspired him to run, Metzger said this.

"With a seat opening and some of the challenges faced not only by the district but in public education generally, I wanted to lend a hand. We have had a wonderful experience as a family with the school system and want to do my part to ensure its long-term stability and success," Metzger said.

He also noted these as the successes in the past year, along with the improvements he'd like to see during his term.

"The busing situation, while still not perfect, has improved significantly. The contract negotiations are an area in which I have a lot of experience and I would be a priority to me," Metzger said. "I would also like to pursue additional opportunities for partnerships in the areas of Career and College readiness, something the district is already doing a great job of. As a community we have to tackle the facilities issues with WMS."

Metzger said he hopes to do his part and make an impact and difference in the school district.

"As I said earlier, I just want to do my part to ensure that our school system continues to be excellent. Look at the Class of 2026 and the schools many of our students are going off to. This is the result of having received an outstanding public education. That is a credit to all of our outstanding educators and the broad based community support for our schools. I would like to do my part to ensure the long-term stability of the district for our educators and families," Metzger said.

CANDIDATES from page 1

funding is under attack in 3 major areas: From Washington with the dismantling of the Department of Education. Therefore, the federal government is sending fewer education dollars to Massachusetts, which in turn is sending less to the towns. Inflation, especially health care and energy. The funding formula Massachusetts uses to disperse education dollars favors the big gateway cities and severely hurts most school districts like ours. Due to these factors, our towns cannot afford the huge increase in our budget needed to maintain the same level of service. Instead of working on ways to improve our district, our School Committee and administration are pained to have to find the 'least bad' cuts in our budget. And on top of this, our dedicated and excellent staff deserve a modest raise as they are also affected by Inflation," Rediker said. "Going forward, I hope to be

part of the solution towards being able to maintain or even improve our education. Towards this end, we need to continue to work with the state, as we have been, to increase funding. We also need to explore creative new funding sources," Rediker said.

If elected, Rediker elaborated on his vision for his next term.

"Besides exploring how to increase our resources, we must replace Wilbraham Middle School, as it is overcrowded and past its end-of-life. Our School Committee and administration have applied to the state program that can hopefully help in this major undertaking," Rediker said. "I look forward to helping the district provide the best possible education to all students despite the financial headwinds we are currently facing. Whenever I take a vote, I don't look for the path that benefits the school committee, teachers, administration or is politically correct.. In-

stead, I vote for the path that most benefits our students."

Maura Ryan

When Ryan was asked what makes her qualified to serve on the School Committee, she shared this.

"I believe you don't have to be an expert to start-you have to be willing to learn. I'm qualified because I care, I'll do my homework, and I'll represent our community with integrity and common sense," Ryan said.

She also explained why she decided to run again.

"I was inspired to run again because I care deeply about our schools and

our community. I previously served for four years and valued that experience greatly. When my work demands increased, I chose to step back so the role could have someone who could give it their full attention. Now that I have the time to dedicate, I feel ready and motivated to return and continue contributing in a meaningful way," Ryan said.

For successes, she noted these.

"Some of the district's greatest successes include strong graduation rates, dedicated educators and recent gains in reading and math-especially at the elementary level," Ryan said. "We've also

made progress in supporting the whole child through socialemotional learning and innovative programs, while maintaining steady accountability and financial responsibility."

On the improvements she'd like to see, Ryan said this.

"Having served on the School Committee before, I've seen both our strengths and our challenges. I'd like to continue improving support for students who need additional academic or socialemotional help, strengthen family communication, and make sure we're planning thoughtfully for the future while re-

maining fiscally responsible," Ryan said.

If elected to the School Committee to serve again, Ryan shared what she envisions for her term.

"Through collaboration of the full committee, I plan to work closely with district leadership and town officials, listening to families, and using data and past experience to guide decisions, I want to ensure Hampden residents are well represented and that our schools remain strong, supportive, and fiscally responsible," Ryan said.

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VIEWPOINTS

An evening of laughter, a mission that matters



Habitat hosts comedy night to support local veterans

By Brandice J. O'Brien
Marketing and Communications Manager, Greater Springfield Habitat for Humanity

WEST SPRINGFIELD - We believe in the power of a good laugh – especially when it helps support those who have served our country. In honor of May's Military Appreciation Month, Greater Springfield Habitat for Humanity (GSHFH) will host its first-ever Comedy Night on Friday, May 15. The event features local comedians Steve Nagle and Marty Caproni of Rock 102FM, who will bring an evening of high-energy entertainment to support a meaningful cause.

Doors open at 6pm and the show begins at 7, at AMVETS Post 12 in Chicopee. Tickets are \$25 each and will benefit Greater Springfield Habitat's Home Preservation Veterans Build program, which provides critical home repairs for low-income veterans who, due to age, disability, or family circumstances, struggle to maintain safe and functional homes.

"I've heard them on the radio talking about other shows they've done, and it felt like the perfect fit for our community," said Aimee Giroux, GSHFH executive director. "At Habitat, we believe in creating events that bring people together and make an impact—while still having fun."

Between them, Steve and Marty bring nearly 40 years of experience performing on stages across the United States and Canada.

Steve said he got his start 23 years ago when he took the stage at an open mic night at The Clubhouse Lounge in Holyoke.

"I bombed it," he said, "and I haven't stopped since."

In the past three years, Steve said he's really ded-

icated himself more fully to the craft. When Aimee approached him about participating in Habitat's Comedy Night, he immediately saw it as a "perfect fit."

"I love doing comedy, and I love helping the community," he said.

Marty, who said he began his comedy career nearly 20 years ago as a dare from a gym buddy, said he really enjoys watching Steve perform.

"Steve has worked really hard over the last few years and has gotten so sharp onstage that I actually enjoy the nights when I'm done and can relax and watch him work," Marty said.

At the Habitat Comedy Night, Marty and Steve are expected to each perform full headline-length sets.

"People are so divided nowadays," Marty said. "Steve and I always talk about what a gift it really is that we can do things like this show to bring folks together, have them laugh and escape for a bit, while raising critical funds for a great cause."

Numerous veterans have benefitted from GSHFH's Home Preservation Veterans Build program, including Tom and his wife Dolores of Indian Orchard. Tom is an Army veteran who served in the 1960s. These days, Tom suffers from several heart-related conditions and balance issues.

Greater Springfield Habitat replaced the downstairs bathtub with a walk-in tub with grab bars, the ceramic tiles in the kitchen and hallway with laminate flooring; and rebuilt the exterior entryway and stairs.

"Greater Springfield Habitat is an absolutely phenomenal agency that helps the little guy, with low income," said Tom.

Dolores agreed. "Knowing that there are people out there to help us is a blessing," she said. "It's remarkable; it's like winning the lottery, but in a different way."

Whether you're a long-time supporter or just looking for a fun night out, buy your tickets today at habitatsspringfield.org/comedy.

Vote YES on Article 32 at ATM

To The Editor:

For generations, Memorial School has been more than a brick building off Main St. It is where our children first went to school, learned to dribble a basketball, step up to the pitcher's mound, and discover a love of art and dance. On May 11, voters have the opportunity to protect this landmark by voting YES on Article 32, which funds a critically needed new boiler through Community Preservation Act (CPA) funds.

The Memorial School complex is home to a vital range of Wilbraham Parks & Recreation programs — basketball, baseball and softball, wrestling, pickleball, and art and dance classes — drawing an average of 1,150 people a week. The gymnasium is irreplaceable. Without it, our youth basketball program

Letters to the Editor

would be decimated, and there is no comparable alternative facility in Wilbraham. If the boiler fails, thousands of residents will see their beloved programs close.

Some voters may wonder whether approving Article 32 affects other town priorities. It does not. CPA funds cannot be used for school budgets, road repairs, or general expenses. They are collected through a dedicated surcharge and matched by state funds, meaning Wilbraham receives additional Commonwealth money simply for participating. Voting YES costs taxpayers nothing extra. Choosing not to use these funds doesn't save anyone a dime; it simply leaves designated money unspent.

Memorial School is more than a gym and a set of fields — it is a gathering place that binds our neighborhoods to-

gether, a space where young people discover their passions and older residents stay active and connected. Communities that invest in spaces like this are communities that thrive. We urge anyone who has ever walked through its doors — or whose child has spent time on those courts or in those classrooms — to join us at Town Meeting on May 11 at 6:30 PM at Minnechaug Regional High School and vote YES on Article 32. It is a smart investment that costs us nothing extra and keeps the programs our families depend on alive for years to come. If you're unsure on your vote, we'd love to give you a tour. Reach out at WilbrahamRecFriends@gmail.com.

Vote YES on Article 32. Save Memorial School.

Sincerely,
Wilbraham Friends of Recreation

Reelect John Wesolowski

To The Editor:
Dear Wilbraham Voters:

I write in support of John Wesolowski's re-election as Assessor. John has rendered exemplary service to The Town, ensuring that Wilbraham complies with all applicable state laws relative to assessment administration. With John's leadership, the Wilbraham assessor's office has been lauded as one of the most efficient and well-run offices in the state.

In addition to being a CPA, John has mastered the technical requirements for certification as a Master Assessor. He has completed the courses offered by the Division of Local Services from property appraisal and tax classification to rate setting, abatements and exemptions. This rigorous training ensures that John has the knowledge and experience to ensure the Town's compliance with state and local law.

Our assessor does not have the statutory authority to ei-

ther raise or lower taxes. Taxes are raised by Townspeople voting at Town meeting upon the recommendation of a budget put forth by the Finance Committee and the Board of Selectmen. The Board of Selectmen determines the tax classification of residential and business property. The assessor implements that vote!

John has saved the Town considerable money by adopting state-approved, professional appraisal software as opposed to hiring appraisers to value real property. Individuals who doubt an appraisal may apply for an abatement, which process is also governed by state law. Excise taxes originate and are controlled by the DMV. John simply manages the process in accordance with the law.

John's job is to balance our revenue with the Town's bills to be paid and ensure there is enough money to do what Town meeting voted. He must prepare and submit a recapitulation sheet to the Department of Revenue for its review and

certification. Nothing happens until John has the state certification in hand.

Finally, all elected officials are bound by the state "conflict of interest" law, which prohibits self-dealing in any form. The law is intended to foster confidence in the fairness of decisions made by elected officials and is strictly enforced by the State Ethics Commission and the local District Attorney's office. Even the appearance of impropriety must be avoided. This is the same standard imposed by law on all fiduciaries. As a CPA, John a fiduciary as a matter of law but, most importantly, he has run the assessor's office in a manner that has never discredited or embarrassed the Town.

John Wesolowski has done an excellent job for us. He is the right person for the job. Please consider giving him your vote for Assessor on Saturday, May 16.

Respectfully submitted,
Gale D. Candaras

Vote Wesolowski for Assessor

To the Editor:

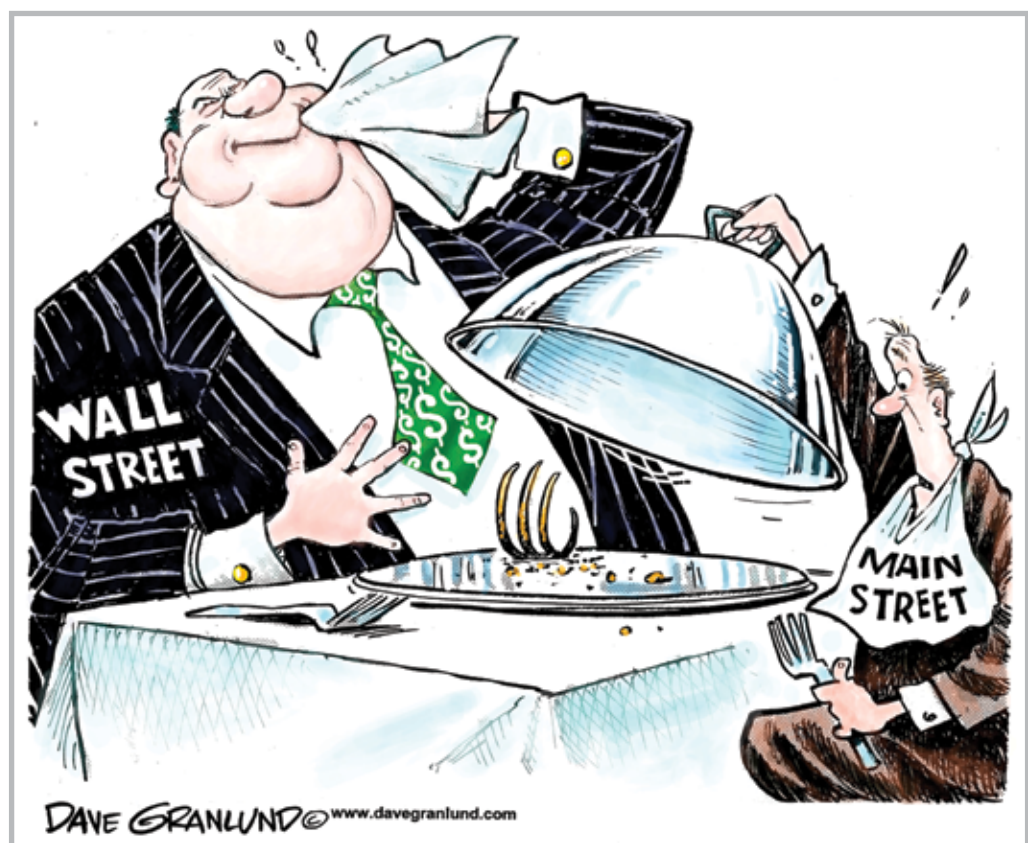
This is a letter of support for John Wesolowski to continue in his role as Wilbraham Town Assessor in the upcoming May 16 election. We have known John and his family for 45 years and raised our children together. During that time, we have known John to be an active and enthusiastic member of our town and reli-

gious communities especially with Boy Scouts and St. Cecilia Finance Council. While in these roles, he has enriched the lives of the community. He has been our Town Assessor for twenty-four years and we appreciate his fair and equitable application of the Commonwealth's codes and regulations to all residents, places of businesses and homes in our town. His out-

standing professional career experience is a tremendous benefit to our town in his role as Town Assessor.

We commend him for his integrity, dedication and commitment to our town. John had our support in the past, has it now and will continue to have it on May 16.

Sincerely,
Joyce and Gary Rockwell



support community journalism

The Wilbraham-Hampden TIMES

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Correction Policy

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

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

Election letters to the editor welcome

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

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

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

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

Ballots available for annual Wilbraham town election

WILBRAHAM - The Wilbraham Town Clerk's Office announces that early vote by mail/absentee ballots are now available for the upcoming Annual Town Election scheduled for Saturday, May 16, 2026.

A request in writing is required for obtaining a ballot. An application to request a vote by mail/absentee ballot can be found on the Town Website or by going here: <https://www.wilbraham-ma.gov/934/Vote-By-Mail>. You

may also apply online for a vote by mail ballot here: <https://www.sec.state.ma.us/MailInRequestWeb/MailIn-Ballot.aspx>.

The last day and time to apply for a vote by mail ballot or absentee mail in ballot is Monday, May 11, 2026, 5 p.m. The last day and time to apply for an in-person absentee ballot is Friday, May 15, 2026, Noon. Please call 596-2800, ext. 200 if you have any questions.

A COMMUNITY GALLERY

Life in &

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

WILBRAHAM HAMPDEN

Shred Day at HSC

COMMUNITY BULLETIN BOARD

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We will pick one each week to run here free of charge, please keep it to less than 50 words. Please send to krivers@turley.com



The Friends of Hampden Senior Citizens held their Annual Shred Day Fundraiser event in the Hampden Senior parking lot on April 24. The event was a success through the efforts of volunteers and many people coming out to support. Submitted photos Claudia Kapinos



Puppolo tours *Friendly's* headquarters



State Rep. Angelo Puppolo Jr. (D-Springfield) was joined by Aaron Vega, the new Western-Mass Economic Development Council president, to meet the corporate team at Friendly's headquarters on Boston Road in Wilbraham earlier this year. The March 10 visit provided an opportunity for Puppolo and Vega to foster ways to strengthen collaboration and continued economic development partnerships in the Western Massachusetts area.



Turley photos by Kristin Rivers

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COMMUNITY

Old Meeting House Museum opens for the season during Wilbraham Hill Climb

Free admission, local history, and a full calendar of community events ahead

WILBRAHAM — The Old Meeting House Museum will kick off its 2026 season on Saturday, May 9, opening its doors during the Wilbraham Hill Climb.

Located in the heart of the event on Main Street, the museum invites visitors to step inside and explore local artifacts, while browsing a freshly stocked gift shop featuring new items and Hill Climb merchandise.



- Museum Highlights:**
- Open House: May 9, 8 a.m. to close.
 - Free admission for all visitors
 - Access to one of Wilbraham's most historic buildings
 - Exclusive Wilbraham Hill Climb t-shirts and local merchandise available for purchase
 - A Season of Free Community Events

The Hill Climb also marks the beginning of a full season at the Old Meeting House Museum. From May through

December, the museum will host a series of free, family-friendly events rooted in local history and community connection. This year's programming includes returning

favorites alongside new offerings designed to bring the region's past to life through presentations and opportunities to connect with local history.

"We're especially excited about this year's programming," said Lindsey Bourcier, Director of Marketing & Communications. "It features community favorites like our Ice Cream Social alongside entirely new events. It's shaping up to be our strongest season yet."

The full calendar of events is available at: www.theomh.org

Community Preservation investing in Wilbraham since 2004

WILBRAHAM — The Community Preservation Committee has shared the following information about the Community Preservation Act ahead of the May 11 Annual Town Meeting.

"At the Wilbraham Annual Town Meeting we vote on projects funded by the Community Preservation Act "CPA". But how does CPA work, and why is it so valuable to Wilbraham?"

Created by the state in 2000, the CPA provides an annual funding source to help preserve and improve a community's character and quality of life. Statewide, 201 cities and towns participate in CPA. 71% of Massachusetts residents live in a community supported by CPA. Wilbraham adopted the CPA in 2004.

What types of projects are eligible for funding? The original purpose of CPA was to preserve land for conservation and recreation, preserve historical assets, and build and preserve community housing. A change in 2012 also allowed for an expanded qualification of outdoor recreation projects.

Where does the funding come from? Annually, there are two sources of funding. Wilbraham taxpayers on adoption in 2004, voted to assess a surcharge of 1.5% of their property tax bill. The state determines a variable matching percentage and this amount relies on real estate transfer fees, any surplus funds allocated to the Community Preservation Trust Fund, and how many communities are sharing the pot. For Fiscal Year 2027, this matching amount is 15.5%.

A volunteer town committee, the Community Preservation Committee,

is comprised of 9 members where 6 are required from the following committees: Planning Board, Open Space and Recreation Committee, Conservation Commission, Historic Commission, Housing Authority and Recreation. In addition 3 at large members round out the committee. The required representation from these committees match the categories of CPA allowable projects. These representatives contribute to ensure there is an understanding of Wilbraham's needs and priorities. The Community Preservation Committee is responsible for accepting project proposals, vetting those proposals for adherence to CPA requirements, discussing the value to the town and finally voting on each proposal to move forward to Annual Town Meeting. At Annual Town Meeting each voting resident attending the meeting has a chance to determine if they also value this project, supporting it with their vote.

How has Wilbraham benefited from the CPA since its adoption in 2004? In looking at the history of projects funded for Wilbraham, CPA projects have saved critical pieces of land for conservation and recreation, like Rice Nature Preserve, Gazebo Park, and Mount Marcy. Recreation Projects are the majority of CPA projects. Tennis courts, pickle ball courts, playgrounds and spray park, athletic fields and support buildings, hiking trail signs and kiosks, our community garden, mobility trails and the Disc Park have all benefited from CPA funding. Community housing projects have rehabilitated the Pines Community Housing

for residents and replaced windows in all community housing buildings. Historic projects have included restoration to Wilbraham's beloved historic buildings; Memorial School, the Little Red Schoolhouse, the Meeting House and Herse House, the Children's Museum, and Barn at Fountain Park. Also included in the Historic category are projects protecting historic town records, restoration at all town cemeteries of historic gravestones in disrepair, and ensuring that historic town sites like the first meeting house and the Hill Climb have signage indicating their place in Wilbraham's history.

There are 5 CPA project proposals going to Annual Town Meeting on May 11th. These are a good representation of some of the types of projects that the committee receives annually. One of the historic projects will request funding to repair 22 historical cemetery stones. Two projects are to support Soule Road School, one is fencing for their outdoor play space area and the other is to replace playground equipment. Some of this equipment will be accessible, which is a focus at all schools. A request for funding at Spec Pond is to build dugouts and additional fencing for the softball field. The final project this year is funding for a boiler unit and management controls for Memorial School.

How can you participate in Community Preservation? Attend Community Preservation meetings, attend the Annual Town Meeting and vote on CPA projects, and become involved with the committees that have the ability to request CPA funding and work on project proposals.

For more information the Massachusetts Community Preservation Coalition website can be found at communitypreservation.org.

Wilbraham Garden Club meets today, May 7

WILBRAHAM - The Wilbraham Garden Club will hold its monthly meeting on Thursday, May 7 at Noon in the St. Cecilia Parish Center on Main Street.

The guest speaker is Chris Ferrero, a Cornell Master Gardener. Her presentation, "Gardening for Baby Boomers: 10 Ways to Garden Smarter as We Get Older," will focus on ways to reshape

our garden design, change the plants we use, and modify how we work in our garden as we age. She will inspire us to maintain our love for gardening as our bodies slow down.

A light luncheon will be served and is open to all members. Guest fee will be \$5.00. Please call Anna Howell at (413) 537-5788 with any questions and to register.

Blessing of the Animals taking place May 9

HAMPDEN - Federated Community Church at 590 Main Street in Hampden will hold a Blessing of the Animals event on Saturday, May 9 from 1 to 3 p.m., weather permitting.

We will provide drinking water for pets, but please make sure to bring their own water dish. Dogs must be on leashes. All are welcome.

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ECI Technologies, Route 20 Bar & Grille host fundraiser to support Wilbraham Veterans

WILBRAHAM - ECI Technologies, in partnership with Route 20 Bar & Grille, is proud to announce a community fundraiser in support of the Wilbraham Veterans Assistance Fund, to be held on Tuesday, May 20, 4 to 8 p.m. at Route 20 Bar & Grille, located at 2341 Boston Road, Wilbraham.

During the event, Route 20 Bar & Grille will donate 20% of food proceeds to the Wilbraham Veterans Assistance Fund. Community members can support local veterans simply by dining out while enjoying a lively and welcoming atmosphere.

The evening will also feature live entertainment, raffles, and guest bartenders, making it a fun and engaging way to give back while supporting a local business.

The Wilbraham Veter-

ans Assistance Fund provides immediate, short-term financial assistance to local veterans and their dependents facing hardship. Funds are used to help cover essential needs such as food, transportation, and emergency heating or utility expenses, offering critical support during difficult times.

"This event is about the community coming together," said representatives from ECI Technologies and Route 20 Bar & Grille. "It's an opportunity to enjoy great food and entertainment while directly supporting veterans who have served our country and now need a helping hand."

ECI Technologies and Route 20 Bar & Grille invite the public to attend, share the event, and help spread the word. Every meal makes a difference.

Paint Sip Fun at the Wilbraham Public Library

WILBRAHAM - Two paint and sip classes will be held at the Wilbraham Public Library on Tuesday, May 26. Erin Boughamer of Paint Sip Fun will instruct children ages 8-11 (child must not yet be in 6th grade), and adults ages 18+ in painting two unique designs on canvas. No experience is necessary, all supplies will be provided, and each participant will take their completed artwork home. Visit the library website to view images of the selected designs for each age group.

Registration for each class is required and space

is limited. Registration for children begins May 4, and registration for adults begins May 12. PLEASE NOTE: Due to high demand, priority will be given to adults who did not attend the previous Paint Sip Fun class on Feb. 17. Registrants who attended the Feb. 17 session may be canceled and/or moved to the waiting list. To sign up, please contact the library at 413-596-6141, or visit the Event Calendar at www.wilbrahamlibrary.org. These programs are sponsored by the Wilbraham Friends of the Library.

MV crash in Hampden leads to discovery of illegal firearm

HAMPDEN - On March 15, officers responded to Somers Road for a motor vehicle crash. When officers arrived on scene they located a single motor vehicle off the roadway with heavy damage. After speaking to the operator, he exhibited signs of intoxication and became uncooperative with police. He refused to remove his hands from his pockets and after a brief struggle with officers, a loaded firearm was located hidden in his pants waistband.

Xavier Cody of Monson was charged with the following:

- OUI Liquor .08%
- Open Container of Alcohol in Vehicle
- License Not in Possession
- Negligent Operation of a Motor Vehicle
- Marked Lanes Violation
- Carrying a Loaded Firearm Without a License
- Possessing Ammunition Without FID Card
- Minor in Possession of Liquor

PARNORMAL

from page 1

the Senior Center free of charge.

The Friends of Wilbraham Seniors sold raffle tickets for a chance to accompany Goff and his team on upcoming paranormal investigations of three sites in Wilbraham: Adams Cemetery, the brick Block Building on Boston Road and a follow-up visit to the Taproom. Proceeds from the tickets will be used to fund special programs and services at the center.

Findings from these three investigations will be revealed at a ticketed event at the senior center on Oct. 16.

Local author David Bourcier also sold his book, "Historical Tales of Wilbraham," at the presentation. Bourcier will provide Agawam Paranormal with historical research on the three sites that the group will investigate.

Goff's group brings two pickup trucks full of gear, including EMF (electromagnetic field) meters, motion sensors, night-vision cameras and recording equipment on their quests to detect paranormal activity. He provides his services at no charge to residential, commercial and historic sites.

The group of about 30 investigators also works with psychics who Goff believes are more sensitive to a spirit's presence.

Goff told the audience at the senior center about his investigations of the George Walter Vincent Smith Art Museum in Springfield, the Backyard Bar and Grille in West Springfield, and Wilbraham's Taproom.

Goff's team visited the Taproom due to many reports of unexplained sights and sounds at the old building. More than one delivery person has refused to enter its cellar because they feel unwelcome. It was constructed as a home, perhaps for the Collins family, in 1825. The building became an American Legion Post from 1952 to 1975 and then the longtime site of the Underpass Saloon. It operated as O'Driscoll's Irish Pub before becoming the Taproom.



Turley photos by Patricia Sullivan

There have been many reports of paranormal activity at the Taproom Bar & Grille.



AT LEFT: Attendees at the "Who Goes There" presentation could buy raffle tickets to join an investigation of Wilbraham's Block Building or two other sites.



The Block Building on Boston Road now houses Roots Barbershop and Lounge and the Corner Studio.

The team's psychic felt four spirits in the building—two children, one man and one woman. Goff showed slides of an unexplained orb of light detected there and played faint recordings of ghostly voices at the site.

His team members heard

footsteps, knocking, clinking glasses and the sound of a chair being dragged across the floor.

"It was creepy," Goff said. "I could tell there was a lot of action."

Goff said he is excited to revisit the Taproom and,

judging by the large number of raffle tickets sold, many of the attendees of the "Who Goes There?" presentation are eager to accompany him and his team on their upcoming investigation.



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The Town of New Braintree Highway Dept. is seeking qualified applicants for the immediate full-time position of Skilled Laborer / Truck Driver. Applicants must have a valid Massachusetts Driver's License, Class B (CDL) with DOT Medical Examination Certification and a Hoisting Engineer License Class 2B with DOT Medical Examination Certification. Interested applicants should submit a letter of interest and an employment application to: Highway Department, 110 West Brookfield Road, New Braintree MA 01531.

Highway Dept. Seasonal Laborer

The Town of New Braintree is seeking a qualified candidate to perform seasonal work in the maintenance of town commons, roadways, grounds and cemeteries. Applicants must have a valid Massachusetts Driver's License (Class D). This is a seasonal position for 20 hours per week with a flexible schedule, May through October. Interested applicants should submit a letter of interest and employment application to: Highway Department, 110 West Brookfield Road, New Braintree MA 01531.

**For further information, please contact
Richard Ayer, Highway Superintendent, at 508-867-2451,
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BREAKFAST
from page 1

tion of community. Bringing us all together, working for a common goal," Harter said. "It's something that really helps every single member of this community and sincere thanks. You are contributing to the greater good. You do make a difference and I think that's very important to know that you absolutely make a difference."

Oliveira explained the room the event was held hosts many civic organizations from political events to forums talking about issues impacting everyone and more.

"Those are all debated in public libraries and as we celebrate 250 years of the United States of America this summer, I think we need to defend these democratic centers. They're not just places where you can meet friends, take out a book, but they're also centers of democracy. They're places where community can gather to talk about those issues, but also give them an opportunity to interact with people with different points of views, and that's what public libraries do for the last 250 years," Oliveira said.

After noting how "public libraries are part of the fabric of Massachusetts," Oliveira said they're special to him as his first speech as a state senator was for a budget amendment he filed to support regional libraries in the state.

"So, state support is essential for all of us. Our library systems are some of the best that we have in the entire country are right here in our backyards, so for me, I love libraries. I live and breathe libraries," Oliveira said.

After elaborating on a bill passed on the Senate side earlier this year to defend and protect public libraries—that is currently working through the legislature—Oliveira add-

ed that he learned nearly 100 volunteers donate their time to the WPL.

"Thank you from the bottom of my heart to the Friends, to our elected Library Trustees. You're the people that make this community a wonderful place to live and your volunteerism really adds to what public libraries should be, which are not just centers of democracy, but are also places where people can gather together," Oliveira said.

Squindo shared the library is like Shel Silverstein's "The Giving Tree," in how "the library's a place that you go to get resources, the place that you go to grow, to feed your knowledge," and to find respite.

"I think that the one thing that a library is that isn't represented in Shel Silverstein's is it's a place that plants the seeds of the future. So, in "The Giving Tree," it ends as a stone. In a library, it begins the future. My children have read more books in their five and two years than I think I've read in my 37 years on this Earth, and I attribute that largely to the library and my wife," Squindo said.

Squindo said Harter has educated the community and elected and appointed officials on the library through her vision, awareness and experience.

"It's because of Melissa that I now have a better understanding of what the funding of the library serves and why it's necessary at the state level. It's why at Town Meeting, I hope you will all vote to support the budget as it's presented because it includes full funding of the library as it is," Squindo said. "And with that, I will say I hope it's a foundation of the future where we continue to expand the services of the library. We can't look to the future if we're worried about today and Me-

lissa has allowed us at least a glimpse into the future this year if we can pass the budget at Town Meeting to support the library."

Galanek shared how pleased she was with Harter and "how wonderfully the staff, the Friends, the volunteers, the Board of Trustees has come together to just support this library."

"We want to move into the future. We don't want to stand still. We want to move this library forward and you are an integral part of that. So, just thank you so much for all that you've done and please continue to support," Galanek said.



The teen volunteers of the Teen Advisory Board are also part of this group of volunteers. Kay Dickson later gave a shout out to Teen Services/Young Adult Librarian Rachel Haggood for her support of the group and its volunteers.



The breakfast spread.

Wesolowski reflected on her time as a trustee.

"I just want to say it's been a privilege and pleasure to be on the Board of Trustees for these past years and working with the team at the library. The staff, the board, the volunteers—oh my gosh, the volunteers—it has been a tremendous experience and I've met so many people who are just so gracious and helpful, and the friendships that I've been able to develop are just

so heartwarming," Wesolowski said. "I'd like to think that, together, we made a difference and that I know that the board going forward will continue to move forward. So, I'm a little bit sad I won't be part of that, but I'll be on the periphery."

Bell noted volunteers put in over 1,000 hours this past year, thanking everyone for their support and recognizing two volunteers, Karen Grycel and Joan Ayres, for their ex-



Turley photos by Kristin Rivers
Volunteers were all smiles as they mingled.

Wilbraham Troop 359 Annual Mother's Day Plant Sale

WILBRAHAM - Wilbraham Troop 359 will have their annual Mother's Day Plant Sale on Sat, May 9 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. Thank you from Troop 359. The generous community support is greatly appreciated. For more information, contact John Guerin 413-388-3545.



Photo courtesy of Jennifer Pickering
State Sen. Jake Oliveira (D-Ludlow) with the \$90,000 check for the Town of Hampden to support security upgrades for the Town Hall.

UPGRADES from page 1

certain things that need to take place in here," including security upgrades and addressing maintenance issues.

"And so, what we wanted to do is provide some resources from the Commonwealth and the FY26 budget back to the community in order to help you make the transition into this new space. It's nice to see the sign for the library and all the town offices here. But we want to continue to partner with you, and so, what I have for you here today is a big check," Oliveira said. "We wanted to give this check presentation to show our support for the town of Hampden and to the com-

munity, especially as you transition to this new space, and \$90,000 from the Commonwealth for security upgrades, we wanted to be here today as we go into the next budget cycle to recognize the importance of projects like this to ensure that communities like Hampden never despite their size fall off the radar of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts."

Oliveira added that he and Ashe got this worked into the Senate budget.

"Brian fought to include this in the Conference Committee budget that came out last summer and we were successful in securing \$90,000 for security upgrades," Oliveira said.

After Chair John Flynn

asked if the town received the money, Town Administrator Brian Domina confirmed yes.

"It's available to us, yes, on a reimbursement basis," Domina said.

Oliveira then presented the check to Flynn and the Selectboard.

In a press release sent out later that week from Oliveira's office, Ashe had this message about the secured funding.

"This investment ensures that Hampden's Town Hall remains both safe and accessible for everyone who depends on it," Ashe said. "We are committed to taking proactive measures that protect our community and support the dedicated staff who serve it every day."

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Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli
Lillian Sergienko passes from behind the net.

Falcons score early and often to beat Agawam

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

WILBRAHAM — A dominating performance.

That's probably the best way to describe Minnechaug Regional's 15-2 home victory against Valley Wheel league rival Agawam, last Monday (April 27).

"We've had several games during the season where we played very well in spurts," said first-year Minnechaug girls' varsity lacrosse coach Thomas Brennan. "I thought we played very well from the start to the finish in today's game. It was probably our best effort so far this season. We were unselfish on offense and the defense played exceptionally well."

The Falcons, who had a 7-3 overall record following the home victory, defeated the Brownies, 11-6, at Agawam High School on April 2. They also swept the season series with the Brownies (1-8) for the first time since 2024.

Agawam's only victory so far this season came at Westfield (11-4) on April 14.

The first three Falcons losses were on the road against West Springfield (11-10), Somers Conn. (11-10) and Shrewsbury (17-7.)



Okasana Dobronski makes sure she has possession.



Aubrey Stachowicz looks to shoot.

"We lost at Shrewsbury, who's a very good team, the other day," Brennan said. "We don't talk about that game anymore because it's ancient

history. However, we did learn from our mistakes."

There are six sophomores listed on the Minnechaug roster. Four of them combined to

score 10 goals.

"The sophomores have been leading us offensively," Brennan said. "All of them are very coachable and they

always play very hard."

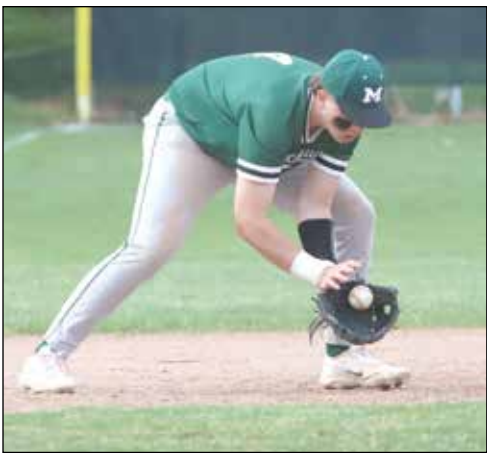
Sophomore Peyton Lee led the way offensively for the home team with four goals. Sophomore Lily Sergien-

ko and junior Sophia Kozub also recorded hat-tricks.

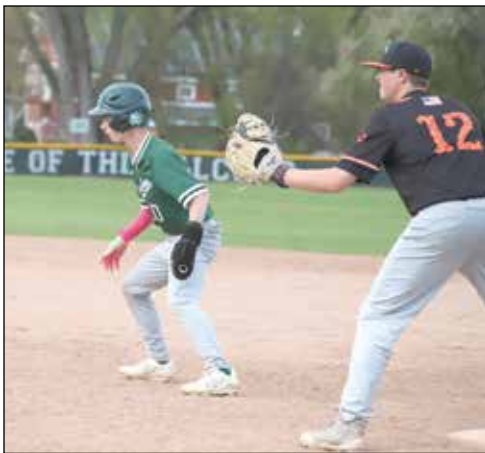
Sergienko scored two of her three goals during the opening twelve minutes of the match. Lee added an un-assisted goal, which helped the Falcons build a 3-0 lead.

"I thought we were very methodically on offense during the first quarter," Bren-

Please see **LACROSSE**, page 12



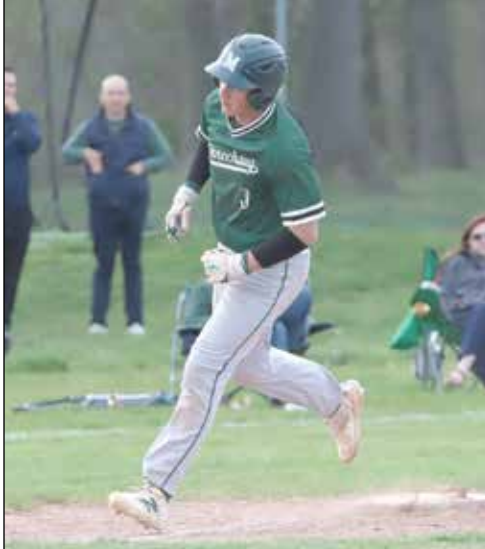
Sam Przybyl collects the grounder.



Seth Beebe takes a lead off first base.



Ian Angelica takes a swing.



Evan Liverseidge rounds third after hitting a home run.



Brownies take down Falcons

Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com

Michael Sullivan gets low for a hit.

WILBRAHAM — Last Tuesday evening, boys volleyball rivals Agawam and Minnechaug met with the Brownies getting a 3-1 win. Agawam outlasted the Falcons in the first set to win 26-24, then took the second set. Minnechaug would keep it alive with a 25-22 in third set. Agawam prevailed 25-17 in the fourth set to take the match. Agawam is now 10-3 while Minnechaug is 8-6 on the season.

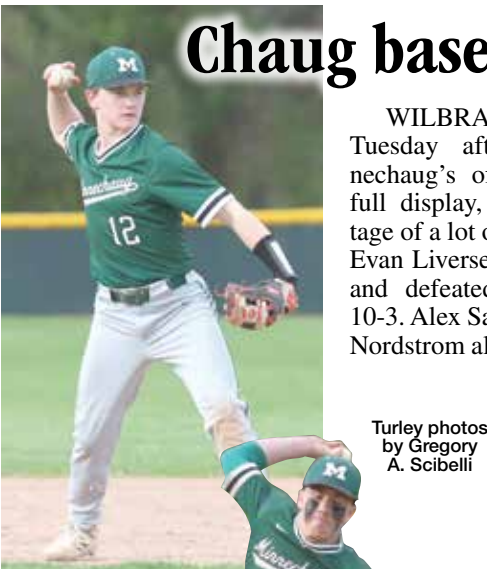


Jonathan Correa gets the bump.

Chaug baseball routs B-Town

WILBRAHAM — Last Tuesday afternoon, Minnechaug's offense was on full display, taking advantage of a lot of walks and an Evan Liverseidge home run and defeated Belchertown 10-3. Alex Savlick and Nick Nordstrom also had two hits

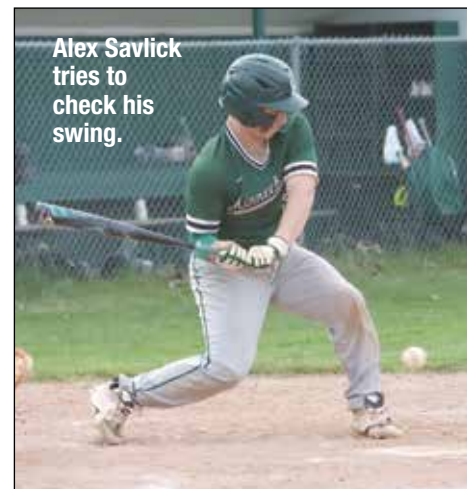
each. Savlick won with five innings allowing a run and two hits. Minnechaug is now 7-6 on the season while Belchertown fell to 4-7. Ryan Gould went 3-for-3 for the Orioles with two doubles. Nathan Marino went 1-for-4.



Peter Appleby makes a throw to first.

Alex Savlick sends a pitch home.

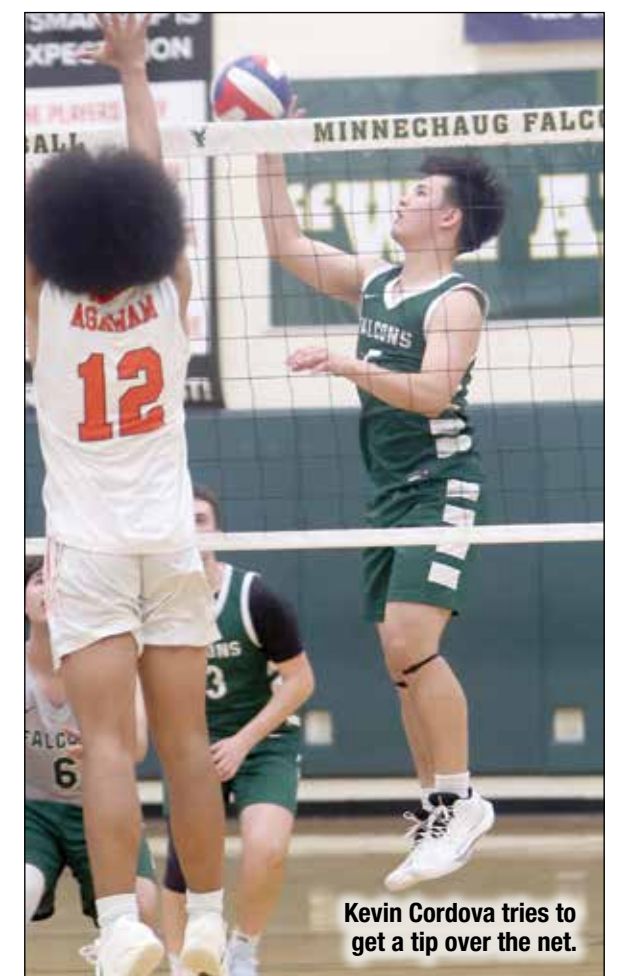
Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli



Alex Savlick tries to check his swing.



Brennan Reed gets an easy set.



Kevin Cordova tries to get a tip over the net.

Wenzel opens up season with win at Monadnock

WINCHESTER, N.H. - Open-wheel ace Nathan Wenzel strutted the stuff that made him both a speedway and New Hampshire state Modified champion Saturday at Monadnock Speedway, topping the season opening main event at the high-banked speedplant.

And even though Saturday marked the first event of the new season, reigning Limited Late Model track champion Dylan Zullo is already in the running for what may be the summer's most exciting victory at the historic quarter-mile oval.

With a huge crowd braving the chilly April temperatures, six drivers started their season with a flourish, each earning the first victory lap of the new season in their respective division. Along with Wenzel and Zullo, long-ago Mini Stock champ Kevin Clayton, Pure Stock hot shoe Jimmy Zellman, Pro V8 Sportsman pilot Chris Kingsley and Young Gun speedster Sofia Rego each went home victorious.

Colton Martin and JT

Cloutier led the All States Materials Group 604 Modifieds to the green Saturday, with Martin jumping all over the opening lead. Cloutier rode second in his shadow, with Kimmy Rivet a close third, and Wenzel, from row three, quickly on the charge.

Wenzel had third on lap three and took second from Rivet on the tenth go-round. He and Martin then raced under a blanket until light contact on lap 28 sent Martin tumbling off turn two, then moving Wenzel and Rivet to row one, with Tyler Leary now up to third.

Leary powered up to second on lap 36, quickly gluing his ride to Wenzel's as the two former speedway champions squared off. They rubbed in the final turn, with Wenzel wobbling but still holding the point to score his first win of the season.

With Leary an airtight second, Martin charged back through the field to snatch third from Rivet, and Cloutier's strong night's work netted him fifth. Leary set fast time in qualifying, scorch-

ing his way around the high banks in 12.127 seconds.

Hillary Renaud led early in the Twin State Truck Services Limited Late Model feature. Dylan Zullo, though, was on a mission, blasting from row three as he began to pick up where he'd left off in his championship season a year ago. Taking the lead on lap two, he looked headed for an easy romp in Saturday's 30-lapper. A caution, though, on lap 24, brought JD Stockwell to his door and the action was just getting started.

Over the last three laps, they rubbed, they pushed, and they traded places, with Zullo prevailing to win by just a foot. Robert Hagar had the best view of the top-two chaos, watching from close behind as he impressed in third. Renaud was fourth on the night, and Erik Smith rounded out the first five.

Kevin Clayton won the Monadnock Speedway Mini Stock championship more than a quarter century ago, taking top honors way back in 2000. In recent summers, victory lane had been like

a foreign nation to him. But now, the popular wheelsman has a new streak started.

Starting up front, Clayton led all the way to win by three lengths over third row starter Craig Chaffee in the night's Keene Towing and Recovery Mini Stock main event. Steady Tim Paquette came home third, Tim O'Shea was fourth, and Dick Lamotte fifth.

Jimmy Zellman won a thriller in the Brattleboro Towing and Recovery Pure Stocks, coming off a pair of runner-up finishes at Claremont, the Bay State blaster had his mind set on something a little bit better. Leading all the way, he achieved that goal Saturday.

Zellman's opening night victory didn't come easily though. He had Colton Hull and Carlos Grenier draped all over him every inch of the way. Grenier got up for second on lap 18 and the potent trio raced under a blanket the rest of the way. With Hull third, Josh Brigham impressed in fourth, and Kyle Begos was fifth.

This week in recreation

Erin Carroll, Assistant Director

WILBRAHAM - As the warmer weather rolls, in it

erves as a reminder that beach season is right around the corner! If you're looking



for some local summer fun look no further than Spec Pond Beach which is conveniently located off of Boston Road. Spec Pond Beach is a family-friendly place to cool off on a hot day. The water is sampled and lab tested every week, and the lifeguards are friendly and work hard to keep the beach clean and safe. Our concession stand offers many ice cream treats and a variety of snacks and beverages. Included with your entrance to the beach is Amy's Sparkle Park - our very popular spray park located right next to the beach.

We offer seasonal memberships for families, adults and seniors that are available for purchase online or at the WPRD office May 5 - June 11. If you don't think a seasonal membership is for you, we also offer daily rates on site. Don't forget the Country Bank Playground at Spec is for all ages and is close to the beach and spray park!

While we're talking

about Spec Pond Beach, don't forget to mark your calendars for the Annual Spec Pond Fishing Derby that will take place on Saturday, May 16 from 9am-12 p.m. The Friends of Recreation and the MA Division of Fisheries and Wild-

life have planned an event that is open to residents and non-residents for children, adults and seniors. Fishing instructors will be available to assist and free bait will be provided. Trophies will be given to the first 30 kids (12 and under) who catch any fish. Free coffee, donuts, juice, and water will be provided. Grand prize for the largest fish caught (by length) will win a DICK'S Sporting Goods Gift Certificate, provided by Dick's.

DONATION: \$2 per person with a maximum of \$10 per family, whether fishing or not.

Register at the pond on the day of the event and bring the whole family for a morning of outdoor fun with a bit of competition stirred in. The fish are waiting!

Notes: Space is limited in many of our exciting weekly summer programs and registration is now open. Visit WilbrahamRec.com for program details and to register.

Thunderbirds defeated in series opener with Bruins

PROVIDENCE, R.I. - The Springfield Thunderbirds and Providence Bruins fought tooth and nail in another stingy contest, with the Bruins prevailing 2-1 in Game 2 of the Atlantic Division Semifinals on Sunday night inside Amica Mutual Pavilion. With that, the series shifts back to Springfield tied at one game apiece in the best-of-five set.

All of the scoring in the game came in a window of less than six minutes' time in the opening period. For a fifth straight game in these play-

offs, Springfield succumbed to a 1-0 deficit within the opening half of period one. Frederic Brunet geared a slapper toward Georgi Romanov, who made the initial save. However, the rebound bounced over to a waiting Matej Blumel on the right wing, and the 2024-25 AHL goal scoring leader rifled it into an empty cage to make it a 1-0 game at 8:34 of the opening period.

The T-Birds were granted a power play and an opportunity to tie the score quickly, and at 11:30, Dillon Dube did just

that, parking himself along the left post and guiding a Hugh McGing pass behind Michael DiPietro to even the slate, 1-1. Alek Kaskimaki picked up his second assist in as many games to round out the scoring play.

The Bruins showed they, too, could answer in a hurry, as Brunet gathered a rolling puck along the right wing and geared a backhand pass across the slot to Georgii Merkulov, who beat Romanov with a quick release to put Providence ahead, 2-1, at 14:02.

Providence outshot the

T-Birds 25-14 over the first 40 minutes of the game, but both DiPietro and Romanov were taxed with special teams work in a second period that featured 10 minor penalties and eight combined power plays of varying lengths.

The T-Birds finally were able to give DiPietro a steady diet of scoring chances in the third, but the Springfield power play left two more opportunities on the table, going 0-for-6 in the final two frames after connecting on their first man advantage of the evening.

Run for Rice's 5K set for June 6

WILBRAHAM - The 14th Annual "Run for Rice's 5K Road Race" will be held on Saturday, June 6, 2026 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 \$25, while day-of-race registration is \$30. Ages 18 and under registration is \$20 including day-of registration.

Everyone registered by May 21, 2026 will receive our famous race t-shirt featuring the "Running Apple" logo, and all registered runners will receive a free Rice Fruit Farm ice cream with their bib number on day of race only. Cash prizes will be awarded in several categories, and all proceeds benefit the Minnechaug Land Trust. Race day registration will be open from 7:30 a.m. until 8:45 a.m. On-line registration is available at RunSignUp.com.



Sophia Kozub keeps the play moving.



Sophia O'Connor hustles up the field after making a play on defense.



Anna Taylor is pursued by the opposing defense.

Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli

LACROSSE from page 11

nan said. "We worked the ball around a lot to see how the defense will react. We didn't rush out shot opportunities."

Agawam only had three shots on goal during the opening quarter.

"Every time that Agawam had a good opportunity in the first quarter, our defense would force a turnover," Brennan added. "Agawam has some strong offensive play-

ers, so we knew that they're capable of scoring goals. They played well against us the first time that we faced them."

Any hopes that the Brownies players had of making a comeback vanished very quickly.

Kozub and Lee scored goals 18 seconds apart early in the second quarter.

With 9:53 remaining in the first half, Kozub delivered a pass to sophomore Anna

Taylor, who fired a shot past Agawam freshman goalie Yabsira Kebede (4 saves).

Trailing, 6-0, the Brownies broke the ice following a goal from freshman Grace Curto, which was assisted by sophomore Sophia DiBella with 6:55 remaining on the scoreboard clock.

Minnechaug senior goalie Nina Semanie, who's planning to play hockey at Framingham State University, was also credited with four goals.

Nola McConnell, who's a senior starting defender for Minnechaug, will be playing college lacrosse at Worcester State University.

Lee scored two more goals during the final six minutes of the opening half.

The other three first half goals for the home team were scored by O'Connor, Kozub, and senior Aubrey Stachowicz, which made the half-time score 11-1.

Minnechaug's final three

goals were scored in the third quarter by O'Connor, Kozub, and Sergienko.

With five minutes left in regulation, sophomore Bella Santaniello netted an unassisted goal for the Brownies. Her older sister, Hope, was an All-American soccer player at Agawam High School.

The Falcons also celebrated victories over West Springfield (14-7) and Leominster (17-4) last week.

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Love, Mom & Dad

Rep. Puppolo hosts event to celebrate Veterinary Youth Day, honor constituent



BOSTON — Representative Angelo J. Puppolo Jr. recently hosted an event at the Massachusetts State House where he honored Anna Banas-Chen for her work promoting youth engagement in veterinary medicine.

The event brought together staff and volunteers from a range of veterinary and advocacy organizations that have been collaborating with Representative Puppolo to encourage young people to explore careers in the veterinary field.

“This was a great opportunity to honor Anna for all of the work she has been doing to encourage other young people to get involved with veterinary medicine,” said Puppolo. “I enjoyed seeing so many people gathered to celebrate an event meant to encourage youth engagement in such a critical field.”

Participating organizations included Dakin Humane Society, Tufts University Cummings School of Veterinary Medicine, Massachusetts Veterinary Medical Association, Massachusetts Veterinary Technician Association, MSPCA-Angell, Caring Canines, and Animal Rescue League of Boston.

“Advocacy groups, professional organizations, and higher education institutions are crucial when it comes to getting young people involved in this field,” Puppolo added. “I am glad that we have so many incredible organizations here in Massachusetts involved in veterinary services.”

Representative Puppolo expressed his gratitude to all participating organizations and hopes the event will inspire greater youth involvement in veterinary medicine.

PET PAGE



PET OF THE MONTH Meet Winnie!



She is a York Terrier and will be 1 year old this month! She loves to chase squirrels, birds, and anything that crosses her eyes. She also loves to chew on empty plastic water bottles. She lives in Hampden with Barb & Kenny Whitehead who adore her!

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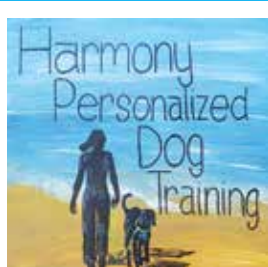
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How to Read Your Dog’s Body Language

Although we may not be able to speak to our dogs, we can still communicate with them by learning how to better understand their body language. Dogs communicate nonverbally, using their ears, tails, and more to express their emotions.

Relaxed dogs are happy dogs. This is when they are feeling their best, no matter whether they are resting or playing. Relaxed dogs are engaged with their surroundings and may be eager to receive or show affection. They may be squirmy if they’re feeling

excitable, and their motions may be overdramatized during play. Their tail will wag in wide, gentle motions. Their ears will be held in a relaxed, natural position, and their eyes will be soft. Their forehead and mouth will have no tension.

Stressed or anxious dogs often display mannerisms meant to soothe or dissipate tension, avoid attention, and demonstrate their discomfort. These behaviors include looking or turning away, hesitant movements or darting away quickly, licking or smacking lips,

yawning, holding their body in a curve, raising a paw, scratching or pawing, trembling or freezing. If your dog appears distressed, try to find out what is agitating them. If the stressor is someone or something in their environment, remove the trigger so your dog can calm down.

When a dog is alert, they pay close attention to their surroundings. They are not necessarily agitated, but they may become agitated if they feel something is wrong. Alert dogs will have wide-open eyes and perked,

forward-facing ears. There will be no tension in their mouth or forehead. They will stand evenly on all four paws, poised and balanced so they can act at a moment’s notice. As for their tail, it will extend outward and may wag slightly.

Appeasing body language can be deceptive to the human eye. While this behavior is submissive and geared to make them appear unthreatening, it can appear frightening to humans. Appeasing dogs may pull their lips back into a grin or snarl, which can be mistaken

for aggression. Other signs include pinned-back ears, squinted eyes, and a low-tucked tail. In addition to their scrunched-up mouth, they may lick their lips often.

Spotting signs of fear in dogs is often easy for owners. Scared dogs will have a stiff, hunched posture and hold their heads close to the ground. Their ears will be tucked close to their head, and their tail will be tucked and pressed close to the belly. They often turn their head away from whatever is frightening them, but they keep their eyes locked on

the stressor. They may keep their mouth closed tightly or pant as though they are hot. Be aware that a frightened dog can quickly become an aggressive dog, biting out of fear.

Aggressive dogs will react to a stressor with a rigid posture. The fur on their shoulders and the base of the spine will stand up straight, and their body will be shifted forward in a “ready” stance. Their eyes will be locked onto whatever is causing their aggression, and they will likely have wrinkles along the mouth and forehead.

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SAFE and Senior SAFE Programs awarded \$15,000

BOSTON – State Representative Angelo J. Puppolo, Jr. is pleased to announce that the Executive Office of Public Safety and Security (EO-PSS) and the Department of Fire Services (DFS) have selected their awardees for the SAFE and Senior SAFE programs. These programs are designed to promote fire safety for children and elderly residents and have shown a significant improvement in the amount of fire related injuries and deaths across the state.



State Representative Angelo J. Puppolo, Jr.

Wilbraham was awarded for both programs, receiving just over \$15,000 for both. The town of Wilbraham re-

ceived \$9,966.42 for the SAFE program and \$5,363.10 for the Senior SAFE program. These funds will go towards improving and expanding both programs in the town of Wilbraham.

“I’m happy to continue my support for these two, very critical, and very successful, interventions,” said Puppolo. “Young children and the elderly are two of our most vulnerable populations and now they are receiving care and education in a way that will equip them with necessary skills to protect themselves in the event of a fire emergency.”

MSB Welcomes Stacey Duda as Assistant Branch Manager

MONSON - Monson Savings Bank is pleased to announce that Stacey Duda has joined the Bank as Assistant Branch Manager, bringing extensive banking leadership experience and a strong commitment to community engagement.

Duda brings more than 30 years of experience in retail banking, branch operations, and customer-focused leadership. In her role, she supports daily service operations of the Wilbraham Branch, provides employee development support to the branch team, and works closely with customers to provide tailored financial solutions. She is passionate about creating a welcoming branch environment that reflects Monson Savings Bank’s commitment to personal service and meaningful community connections.

“We are excited to wel-

come Stacey to the Monson Savings Bank team,” said Dan Moriarty, President & CEO of Monson Savings Bank. “Her depth of banking experience, leadership skills, and long-standing commitment to community involvement align perfectly with our mission as a community bank.”



Stacey Duda

Prior to joining Monson Savings Bank, Duda served as Branch Sales Manager at Arrha Credit Union in West Springfield, where she led branch performance by building trusted relationships with members and strengthening the institution’s visibility through community outreach and local engagement efforts. She previously held roles as Senior Banker

at PeoplesBank and Assistant Branch Manager at United Bank, where she developed strong expertise in branch leadership, consumer lending, regulatory compliance, and staff mentoring.

Throughout her career, Duda has remained actively involved in the communities she serves. She regularly participates in local chamber and community events and previously served for three years as Treasurer of the Suffield Chamber of Commerce, supporting local businesses and economic development initiatives. She believes community banks play a vital role in strengthening neighborhoods, supporting local organizations, and fostering

lasting relationships. “I am proud to join Monson Savings Bank, an institution that truly values community and relationships,” said Duda. “I look forward to working closely with customers, supporting local organizations, and being actively involved in the communities where we live and work.”

Duda resides in East Longmeadow, Massachusetts, and holds federal NMLS registration. She is also a Notary Public in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

To contact Stacey Duda, NMLS ID 766680, for your banking needs, please email sduda@monsonsavings.com or call 413-279-4584.

To learn more about Monson Savings Bank and its team, visit www.monson-savings.bank.

BREWERY from page 1

Nick Breault elaborated on this.

“I believe our understanding is that the application for the wine license is similar to the beer licenses that the product is made on premise,” Breault said.

Avery replied this. “But, we can partner up and under a contract. You can contract brew or contract wine,” Avery said.

“As long as it’s made on premise,” Breault said.

After Buel said it could be done off-premise, Breault added this.

“Our understanding from the ABCC is that the license is for on premise production only,” Breault said.

After Avery said that the license covers the ability to contract brew and wine off site, Breault shared additional thoughts.

“So, all the wine that’s going to be poured, on-site, is made on-site. All of the wine is made on-site. That’s our understanding. I’m not trying to be contentious,” Breault said. “But that’s our understanding from the ABCC is that anything under the farmers

beer licenses, all of the beer that’s being poured is made on-site and that the similar requirement is in place for wine. It needs to be made on-site, not at a partner’s site somewhere off site. On-site, that’s our understanding.”

After additional comments, Buel offered his perspective.

“As a farm brewers license, it doesn’t necessarily have to be on site,” Buel said. “It could be done with collaboration where you share recipes and stuff off site. It’s a common practice. There’s a lot of breweries that run out of capacity and they have it made somewhere else, using the farmer brews license and using them to make more beer or the product for you.”

After mentioning a situation in a nearby community and up in Maine involving growing grapes, but it was blending wine “and they may or may not be using any of their own grapes to make the wine,” Bunnell asked this question.

“So, my question would be is does that mean it’s blended on-site?” Bunnell said. “A winery operation is pretty large, I think, in gen-

eral. So, where do we get the answer to that? Is it an ABCC question?”

Breault replied that he believed they got answer from the ABCC that “bringing in products to create the end product—the beer or the wine, in this case—is appropriate.”

“But, from our understanding is that anything that’s sold on-site needs to be manufactured on-site,” Breault said. “Where the materials come from is not the issue. That’s our understanding.”

After additional comments from Squindo, Avery and Buel mentioned that they were “partnering up with Echo Hill,” which is in Monson, and that they were “using their equipment for space and volume-wise.”

“When you say you’re partnering up with somebody, are you just buying somebody else’s product or are you partnering up with someone for blending your recipe,” Bunnell said.

“We make our own recipe. They use their equipment, basically,” Avery said.

“But they’re not doing it on-site, Sue,” Ducey said.

“And then it gets bottled under our name,” Avery said.

“So, it’s your recipe. You’re saying, ‘We want to take this grape type and this grape type in some ratio.’ Because you guys have this much space, they have this much space, and so you’re effectively outsourcing,” Squindo said.

“Contracting it,” Avery said.

“So, I understand, but Nick’s point is that it has to be blended or produced on-site, and then it wouldn’t be that,” Ducey said. “I think we need clarity on it.”

Breault then suggested the idea of a temporary approval offer by the Select Board “with the understanding that product is not necessarily being manufactured on-site but is under a contract arrangement” and to be sent to the ABCC to explain the situation.

Ducey declined this. “I would prefer to get clarity first myself,” Ducey said.

After Bunnell reviewed documents and additional discussion amongst the board, it was decided the brewery will have to wait for the license approvals.

The uncertainty prompted the Select Board to schedule a second public hearing on May 4 at 6:35 p.m.

“Again, if you guys find some stuff that you feel like would help your case, feel free to submit it,” Squindo said. “In the meantime, we’ll follow up with ABCC to see if we can get clarity on our end. I hate to kick it another week when you guys are clearly trying to get it done, but better safe than sorry for us, I guess.”

After the first public hearing was closed, the second public hearing for the brewery was open and closed to follow protocol, with a continuation declared.

NOTICE

ERRORS: Each advertiser is requested to check their advertisement the first time it appears. This paper will not be responsible for more than one corrected insertion, nor will be liable for any error in an advertisement to a greater extent than the cost of the space occupied by the item in the advertisement.

Wilbraham-Hampden Times OBITUARY POLICY

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries. One is a free, brief **Death Notice** listing the name of deceased, date of death and funeral date and place. The other is a **Paid Obituary**, costing \$275, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice (with a word limit of up to 500 words) and may include a photograph.

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

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

PUBLIC NOTICES

WILBRAHAM BOARD OF APPEALS PUBLIC HEARING

The Wilbraham Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a Public Hearing on **Thursday, May 21, 2026 starting at 5:30 PM** on the application of Gregory S. Harris for a variance (ZBA26-01) from Section 4.4.10 of the Wilbraham Zoning By-Law to construct a 240 square foot front porch within the front yard setback at 5 Russell Road as further specified in the application and plan that are 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.

This meeting will be conducted in person and virtually (see meeting agenda for details). Edward Kivari Jr., Chairman 05/07, 05/14/2026

SALE OF MOTOR VEHICLES

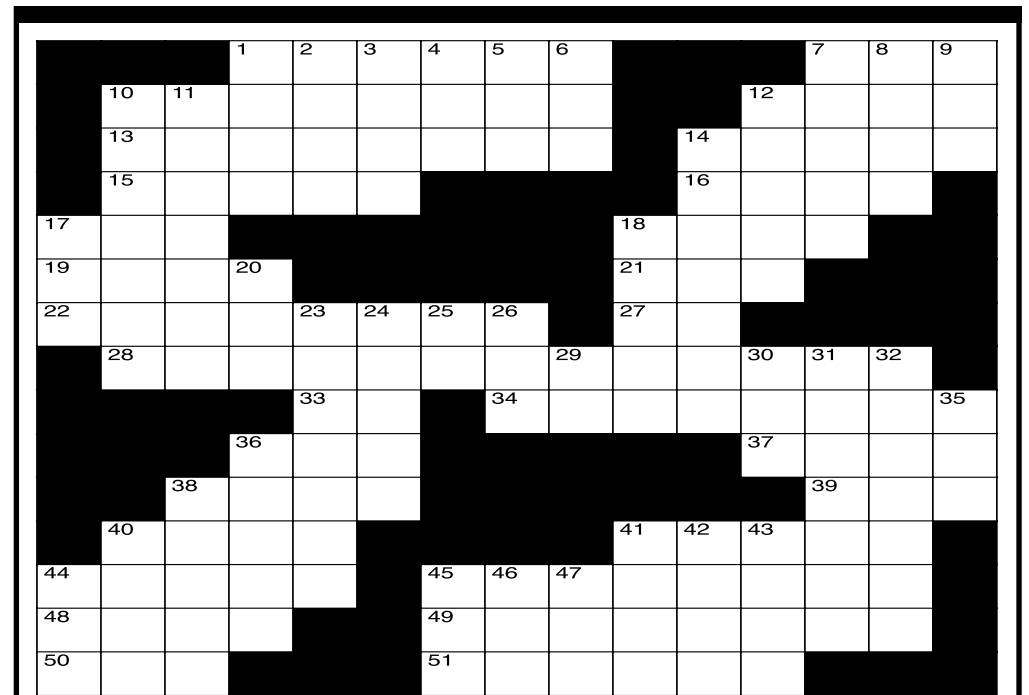
This ad is pursuant to MA Gen. Law Ch.255, Sec. 39A as of May 22, 2026 the following motor vehicles will be for sale to satisfy a garage keepers lien:
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South Grafton, MA 01560

Vehicle: 2014 Ford Escape VIN: 1FMCU9G99EVA31771 LKO: Richard Weldon 24 Lower Hampden Rd. Monson, MA 01057

Vehicle: 2012 Chevy Impala VIN: 2G1WG5E3XC1252863 LKO: Krystaczka Phoxy-Flascher 567 East St. Ludlow, MA 01056

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EARLY DEADLINES

In observance of Memorial Day,
PUBLIC NOTICES
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Place your public notice
no later than **NOON**
Thursday, May 21
– Thank you!

Hampden Senior Center hosts Bubble Mania event

By Kristin Rivers
Editor
krivers@turley.com

HAMPDEN - The senior center hosted an intergenerational program with Green Valley Preschool called Bubble Mania on April 15.

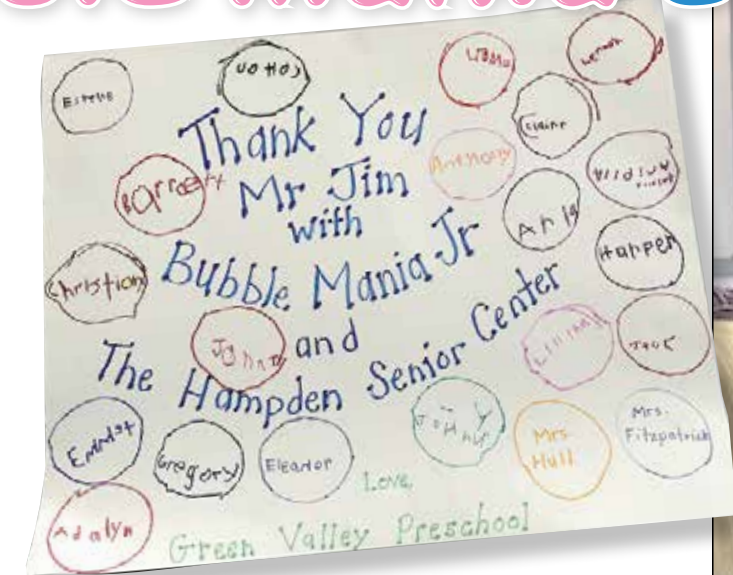
BubbleManiaJR is known as a silly, sudsy interactive entertainment program that is fun for all ages.

The event was made possible in part by a grant from the Hampden Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Mass Cultural Council, a state agency.

Executive Director Rebecca Moriarty shared that the event provided an opportunity to bring together the seniors in the community along with the Green Valley Preschool students.

"We always look for a program that will entertain both groups of people, and this was a great choice! Jim Napolitano from BubbleManiaJr was a wonderful entertainer and showed everyone the amazing things you can do with bubbles. Big bubbles, small bubbles, bubbles inside other bubbles, and so much more! The audience was amazed by what they saw," Moriarty said.

Moriarty said the senior center loves providing intergenerational events like this one to bring the community



A thank you poster from the Green Valley Preschool to the Hampden Senior Center for the Bubble Mania event on April 15.



Jim Napolitano from BubbleManiaJr presents a bubble demonstration. TOP RIGHT INSET: The children also included a poster with their signed names.

Photos courtesy of Wendy Cowles

together.

"Intergenerational events are so important to both the oldest and the youngest participants. Both groups have so much to share with each other and it is important for us to foster relationships and connections between the groups," Moriarty said. "The senior center staff are always very happy to welcome our young friends from the preschool. The smiles on their faces are so big when they step off the school bus. For some, this is their first school bus ride and we are happy to provide that opportunity."

She also elaborated on the senior center's relationship with Green Valley Preschool.

"Green Valley Preschool students provide the senior center with handmade craft projects that the senior center uses for decorations, centerpieces and bringing joy to homebound residents. This has been going on for several years. To offer our thanks to the preschool, we schedule an intergenerational program each spring. Green Valley Preschool staff are wonderful to work with and are very generous with their crafts and support of the senior center," Moriarty said.

The senior center staff and volunteers also enjoy bubbles just as much as the children and seniors.

"Bubbles bring back so

many memories for children of all ages and it was fun to have a building full of bubbles for the day," Moriarty said.

Moriarty said the senior center is always open to ideas on future intergenerational events too.

"We always talk to the staff at the preschool to brainstorm about future programs and we are open to sugges-

tions and ideas from anyone in the community," Moriarty said.

Her message was this.

"The senior center could not have done this program alone. Many thanks to the Hampden Cultural Council, a local agency, which is supported by the Mass Cultural Council, a state agency for supporting the Bubble Mania Jr. Program. In addition,

we thank everyone who supported the bus transportation by donating to offset the cost of bringing the students to the senior center. We appreciate everyone's generosity," Moriarty said. "Stay tuned for an amazing Older Americans Month coming in May! So many new programs and events are scheduled. Look at the May Scribe for all the details."

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	ACT 96 Stafford Hollow Rd., Monson	6 room, 4 bed, 3f, 0h bath Ranch	\$659,900	
	ACT 115 Pasadena St., Springfield	6 room, 3 bed, 2f, 0h bath Bungalow	\$274,900	
	ACT 147 Belvidere St., Springfield	7 room, 3 bed, 1f, 1h bath Colonial	\$319,900	
	ACT 51 Hartford Ter., Springfield	7 room, 3 bed, 1f, 1h bath Colonial	\$389,900	
	ACT 25 Piper Cross Rd., West Springfield	5 room, 2 bed, 1f, 1h bath Ranch	\$321,000	
	ACT 7 Brewster Rd., West Springfield	8 room, 4 bed, 2f, 0h bath Cape	\$675,000	
	CTG 140 Chestnut St., East Longmeadow	5 room, 3 bed, 1f, 0h bath Ranch	\$314,900	
	CTG 205 Bel Air Dr., Longmeadow	6 room, 3 bed, 2f, 1h bath Raised Ranch	\$432,000	
	UAG 325 Allen St., Hampden	6 room, 3 bed, 2f, 0h bath	\$369,000	
	UAG Lot 602 Grandview Ave., Ludlow	8 room, 4 bed, 2f, 1h bath Colonial	\$650,000	
	UAG 83 Grandview Ave., Ludlow	7 room, 4 bed, 2f, 1h bath Colonial	\$675,000	
	UAG 11 Thornfell St., Springfield	7 room, 3 bed, 1f, 0h bath	\$219,900	
SLD	31 Canterbury Cir., East Longmeadow	7 room, 3 bed, 1f, 1h bath Colonial	\$634,900	\$634,900
SLD	85 Baldwin Dr., Hampden	5 room, 3 bed, 1f, 0h bath Ranch	\$225,000	\$240,000
SLD	79 Arvilla St., Springfield	6 room, 3 bed, 1f, 1h bath Ranch	\$289,900	\$292,000
SLD	7 Ashbrook St., Springfield	10 room, 4 bed, 1f, 1h bath Colonial	\$379,900	\$368,000

CONDOMINIUM LISTINGS

SLD	119 Blisswood Village U:119, Ludlow	6 room, 3 bed, 1f, 1h bath, Townhouse	\$279,900	\$300,000
SLD	140 Chestnut St., U:210, Springfield	3 room, 1 bed, 1f, 0h bath Mid-Rise	\$84,900	\$81,000
SLD	140 Chestnut St., U:816, Springfield	3 room, 1 bed, 1f, 0h bath Mid-Rise	\$84,900	\$84,000

LAND LISTINGS

	UAG 7 Old Reed Rd., Lot:6, Monson,	8.50 Residential acres (370,260 SqFt)	\$99,000	
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