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The Wilbraham-Hampden

TIMES

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Wilbraham Hill Climb



revs up on May 10

By Kristin Rivers
Editor
krivers@turley.com

WILBRAHAM - The 2025 Wilbraham Hill Climb will be revving up on Saturday, May 10 with unique cars and fun for the whole family.

During the festivities, there will be a car show with 350 cars at Wilbraham & Monson Academy, VIP parking for another 100

cars on the street, over 60 craft vendors and a craft fair at Crane Park from leather goods to plants, 9 food truck vendors, a Veterans Memorial of the Purple Heart and Veterans Associations and VSOs in the area with car displays, big American flag and tents and other vendors, more cars and a booth for sales of t-shirts, the Wilbraham Antheneum Society showing off the town's history, the Springfield to Boston Education Founda-

tion selling raffle tickets and, of course, the race up the hill featuring 31 cars.

The Wilbraham Hill Climb started in 1908 with 72 cars and nearly 6,000 people in attendance. It later had a hiatus in the late 1940s until it was resurrected by George Holman in the early 2000s, with Jeff DeMarey later coming on to help him out.

Please see **HILL CLIMB**, page 16

Photo
courtesy
of Jeff
DeMarey

It's going
to be a
race to the
finish for
the May 10
Wilbraham
Hill Climb in
Wilbraham.



Turley photo by Kristin Rivers

A shot of the Hampden Fire Department's fire station on North Road.

HFD to present projects at ATM

By Kristin Rivers
Editor
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HAMPDEN - The fire department will present a repairs, renovation and expansion project at the May 12 Annual Town Meeting.

The item is listed as Article 19 on the town meeting warrant and will require a vote for a Proposition 2 1/2 debt exclusion override. A two-thirds vote of approval at ATM will move it to the ballot for the June 23 special election for approval.

The overall project cost is \$8.3 million.

Residents can view the project schematic plans, construction cost estimates and the project presentation on the fire department's page at www.hampdenma.gov/210/Fire-Department.

Lt. Mark Barba, chairman of the Fire Department Building Committee, explained seven years earlier, the fire department wanted to do a small addition and it was brought before the Selectboard, then called the Board of Selectmen.

"At that point, they said, 'Before we invest in anything for the department, let's find out the condition of the building, find out the needs of

Please see **PROJECTS**, page 9

Meet the School Committee and Select Board Candidates

By Kristin Rivers
Editor
krivers@turley.com

WILBRAHAM - Sean Kennedy, vice chair of the School Committee, and Sue Bunnell, chair of the Select Board, will be seeking reelection this coming town election for their respective boards.

The town election takes place on Saturday, May 17.

Sean Kennedy,
School Committee

Kennedy, who has lived in Wilbraham for 14 years with his wife, Liliya, an emergency room nurse at Baystate and traveling nurse, works at Amazon Logistics in Holyoke and has two children, Sasha and Nicholas.

"We love our town, our community and our school district. When we first moved to Wilbraham, I was fortunate to live across the street from my sister and her family. Thanks to my niece and nephew, all the

neighborhood kids would refer to me as 'Uncle Sean' - including my son!" Kennedy said. "In 2016, I attended a neighborhood meeting to convince my educator sister to run for the



Sean Kennedy



Sue Bunnell

that, but I'm so happy she did!"

Kennedy has served on the School Committee for 9 years,

School Committee. By the end of the meeting, I decided to run! I am still unsure how she maneuvered

emphasizing dedication to the town on why he decided to run again.

"I have never missed a School Committee meeting since I was first elected. I have served on numerous subcommittees, such as the HWRSD Budget & Finance and the Negotiations Subcommittees. I was the president of the Lower Pioneer Valley Education Collaborative for four years and a member of the MASC (Massachusetts Association of School Committees) Legislative Committee since 2023,"

Kennedy said.

On the challenges, Kennedy shared the biggest was around the budget.

"This year has been the most challenging budget cycle, but we have been working those challenges into opportunities. We are negotiating all our union contracts and updating the Regional Agreement that created the district between Hampden and Wilbraham," Kennedy said. "We

Please see **CANDIDATES**, page 10

A very green day at the Hampden Public Library

By Patricia Sullivan
Correspondent

HAMPDEN - At the Hampden Public Library's Eco-Expo, attendees young and old cuddled with goats, sampled local treats, learned about recycling, gardening, biogas and earth-friendly burials and much more—all in the pursuit of sustainability.

More than 30 exhibitors, including vendors of green goods, crafters, eco-industry nonprofit groups and professionals took part in the annual event held this year at the Hampden Town House on April 26.

Hampden Public Library Director Ellen Moriarty, the event's organizer, dedicated the day to her brother, Steve Moriarty, who passed away a year ago.

"He was a wonderful big brother and my eco-mentor," Moriarty said.

Steve Moriarty's home in Enfield utilized solar power, geothermal heating and rainwater collection. He received



Turley photo by Patricia Sullivan

Clark Kadis of Farmer Clark's sold pickles, birdhouses and plants.

Enfield's Environmental Hero Award for demonstrating how to be environmentally friendly, practicing organic gardening and lawn care.

He also donated his organically grown vegetables to Loaves and Fishes.

Please see **EXPO**, page 8

David Bourcier releases book on 'Historic Tales of Wilbraham'

By Kristin Rivers
Editor
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WILBRAHAM - Ret. Firefighter and local historian David Bourcier has released a new book titled "Historic Tales of Wilbraham."

Bourcier is the man behind the website, "Wilbraham Historical Tidbits," which explores the fascinating stories of Wilbraham's history uncovered through his research, the president of the Atheneum Society of Wilbraham and also serves as a cemetery commissioner for the town, overseeing Adams Cemetery which dates back to 1736 and is the oldest cemetery in Wilbraham.

Bourcier explained his book is a collection of 31 true stories "highlighting the people, places and events that have shaped Wilbraham and its surrounding area."

"Spanning from the town's colonial beginnings through the 20th century, the book traces Wilbraham's transformation from its early



Photo courtesy

Ret. Firefighter and Historian David Bourcier has released a new book called "Historic Tales of Wilbraham."

ly days as part of Springfield Mountain to the vibrant community it is today," Bourcier said.

About five years ago, Bourcier launched his website "Wilbraham Historical Tidbits" to share his research and passion for local history, receiving "a lot of encouraging feedback."

His daughter, Lindsey--who also gave him positive feedback--suggested turning his work into a book. With help from his wife, Kelley, Bourcier sought out a publisher "that would be the right fit for my writing."

"I had always been familiar with The History Press, a division of Arcadia Publishing, one of the largest publishers in this field, producing nearly 900 titles each year," Bourcier said. "After many months of conversations with the publishing company, submitting sample writings, and completing various other requirements, I was finally offered the opportunity to sign a contract. Throughout the process, my favorite part remained the research, which allowed me to dive even deeper into the rich history I love to explore."

Reflecting on his love for local history, Bourcier said the spark came at a very young age when he grew up in North Wilbraham.

Please see **BOURCIER**, page 13

Selectboard accepts Master Plan

By Kristin Rivers
Editor
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HAMPDEN - The Selectboard has accepted the Master Plan, unanimously approving it during their April 28 meeting.

The Hampden Master Plan is a blueprint to help outline the town's future, guiding decision-making on policies, investments and community initiatives. It was put together through resident input and designed to evolve as the town grows and changes.

It consists of eight chapters, which are land use, housing, economic development, historic and cultural resources, public facilities and services, open space and recreation, resiliency and climate and transportation and mobility.

To learn more about the Master Plan, email masterplan@hampdenma.gov or visit the Hampden MA Master Plan Facebook page.

Master Plan Committee Chair Patrick Coyne explained how the plan was previously accepted by the Planning Board and a 15-month project that came through working with the team from VHB.

"Very helpful in us moving through the process. We met every Wednesday for 15 months," Coyne said. "We completed the plan on time and, actually, I was going to say, on budget, but at the end of the day, we're under budget

by \$605.01."

Coyne added the total cost--which was \$133,000--\$75,000 of it was covered by a state grant and the project activities included an immersion day, stakeholder interviews, an economic development roundtable, two public meetings, a pop-up event and an online community survey.

"I think of it, actually, in its current state, we've recognized certain benefits immediately. It's a great reference document for town facts. I mean, it really updated a lot of the things that people think they understood about the town and rolled them forward to the current time," Coyne said. "It'll be great supporting guidance for the Planning Board and our decision-making process and it's already proven to be useful in grant applications."

Coyne then thanked the committee, which consists of Selectboard Chair Don Davenport, Connie Witt, Parks and Rec Director Dan Blanchard, Tad Brown, Joseph Sibilia and Heather Beattie "who joined us early on in the process," and again thanked the VHB team.

"So, I'm hopeful that the Selectboard will accept the plan and move forward," Coyne said.

Luke Mitchell, the Massachusetts Land Planning Team Leader at VHB, shared the team took a community tour to learn about Hampden,

also thanking the Master Plan Committee.

"You had a lot of great ideas and really pushed us and the message we heard loud and clear was 'Okay, yeah. Hampden is a small town. We don't just want, like, a small town comp plan. We want to be a small town of excellence. We want to be a sort of a model for what a small town can be in New England. Not just now, but sort of moving forward over the next coming decades when there's so much uncertainty out there,'" Mitchell said. "So, that's the sort of purview that we had..."

Mitchell also shared the vision statement.

"While bordered by larger neighbors, Hampden prides itself on being a vibrant and resilient small town, offering an exceptional quality of life to its residents, visitors and businesses and Hampden's committed to balanced growth and preservation, enhanced open spaces, support for small businesses, exclusive opportunities, effective emergency services, climate resilience, supporting education system, community engagement and innovative planning," Mitchell said.

After highlighting the chapters, Mitchell noted with the plan's implementation that "this is the end of the planning process, but it is the beginning of a long period when you need to implement what's codified in the plan, what's written in the plan."

"So, you are in a unique position because you don't have a town planner. Many towns have town planners. Hampden's small enough, a lot of towns with the same population size that you have don't have a town planner. So, that becomes the central

challenge of this comp plan. How are you going to implement it if you don't have that champion whose job 40 hours a week is to manage the planning in Hampden," Mitchell said. "So, that's a real challenge that we have asked the committee and others in the public meetings to really focus on..."

Mitchell advised the town "to be intentional" on the implementation, including on the network of people that will meet regularly to implement the Master Plan.

"Keep that energy up because the next six months are going to be that critical part of the implementation timeline when this plan can either lose steam or you can keep the ball rolling and build that momentum to get implementation routine and processed in place," Mitchell said.

Selectboard Member John Flynn said the plan was "certainly a notable improvement over the last one in '82."

"I think the thoroughness that VHB did along with this great committee, this wasn't going to be a one-month project. They went through the thing from top to bottom and I think everybody who were on the committee took their own personal experiences to bring it into what they knew," Flynn said. "And I can see everything reflected in here and I thank you."

After Selectboard Member Craig Rivest concurred with Flynn's points, Blanchard shared he's already started implementing some of the action items.

"So, it is guidance for me as the Park and Rec director to implement those things in the plan, so I'm using it as guidance for our department," Blanchard said.

2025 Town Meeting Warrant announcement

WILBRAHAM - ARTICLE 47. Adoption of a Town-Wide 25 MPH Speed Limit. To see if the Town will vote to accept Chapter 90, Section 17C of the Massachusetts General Laws, setting the reasonable and proper speed on municipally-owned streets within thickly settled or business districts at 25 MPH. This speed limit will apply to all town ways that do not have existing speed regulations; or take any other action relative thereto. Explanation: This Article would set the town-wide speed limit at 25 MPH on all thickly settled municipally owned streets that do not already have speed limits set according to state statute. This would set the unposted zones from their current speed limit of 30 MPH to 25 MPH. <https://www.wilbraham-ma.gov/DocumentCenter/View/1000/LocallyLudlowSpringfieldWestfieldHolyokeChicopeeNorthamptonAmherstGreenfieldhavealreadyadoptedthisoption>



cities and towns to notify MassDOT of these changes. Section 194 creates Section 18B of Chapter 90 of the MGL, allowing municipalities to establish regulatory 20 mph safety zones. Since this creates a regulatory speed limit, the MUTCD requires an engineering study prior to the establishment of the safety zone, and it should conform to the guidance found in the MassDOT Procedures for Speed Zoning. If a municipality opts-in, it will not supersede any existing posted speed limit. The legislation only affects streets that are currently governed by a statutory speed limit. If an existing special speed regulation is in place, it will continue to govern.

Memorial Day Plant Sale

HAMPDEN – The Hampden Garden Club’s Memorial Day Plant Sale will be taking place on May 26 from 8 a.m. to Noon at Academy Hall, Main Street, in Hampden, rain or shine.
Stop by and check out the plants!



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Scholarship Benefit Tag Sale takes place May 10

WILBRAHAM – THE DKG Society International for Key Women Educators Alpha Chapter MA will be hosting a Scholarship Tag Sale on Saturday, May 10 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The Scholarship Benefit Tag Sale for Greater Springfield Area High Schools will be held at Grace Union Church at 10 Chapel St. in Wilbraham.

It will be a spring blowout sale, including clothing, toys and games, household goods, jewelry and more.

Early voting now available

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 17, 2025.

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 can also apply online for a vote by mail ballot here: <https://www.sec.state.ma.us/MailInRequestWeb/MailInBallot.aspx>. The last day to apply for a vote by mail ballot or absentee mail in ballot is Monday, May 12, 2025, 5 p.m. The last day to apply for an in-person absentee ballot is Friday, May 16, 2025, Noon. Please call 596-2800, ext. 200 if you have any questions.

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 10 in St. Cecilia's Church parking lot from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.


Sales and donations help pay for camping equipment, supplies, program materials, registration and activity fees

throughout the year. People come and shop for a vote by mail ballot after year. The generous community support is greatly appreciated. Thank you from Troop 359. For more information, contact John Guerin 413-388-3545.



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Chicopee Register

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Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries.

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

Scantic Valley YMCA holds Healthy Kids Day

By Angelina Acevedo
Correspondent

WILBRAHAM – On April 26, the Scantic Valley YMCA hosted its annual Healthy Kids Day for children and their families to enjoy.

The event took place to spread healthy living habits to kids as we head towards the summer months.

At the event, businesses such as Country Bank and Pop Orthodontics provided children with items to take home such as healthy snacks, sunglasses, first-aid kits, floss and toothbrush timers to help further enforce a healthy lifestyle.

Tracey Perry, assistant vice president and retail banking officer at Country Bank, said, “We want to encourage the overall wellness of a child’s health.”

Orthodontist Ana Serranho, meanwhile, who owns Pop Orthodontics, said that their goal was to “promote good oral health.”

These ideas align perfectly with Debbie Kelder, executive director at the YMCA’s, goals for the event.

“Kids lose a structured schedule while out of school, and we want to show ways to keep their minds and bodies healthy, like being up and moving, reading, and getting involved in the community,” Kelder said, “The goal is to bring ideas and programs to the community to have a healthy, happy summer.”

Kelder has a diverse set of resources for this program and wanted this Healthy Kids Day to not only appeal to young children, but also the adult audience attending. This year, the non-profit organization Hampden Wilbraham Partners for Youth, a program that educates on substance abuse and prevention was also in attendance.

Jackie Hafner, the community engagement and com-



Attendees check out the different vendors during Healthy Kids Day on April 26 at the Scantic Valley YMCA.

munications coordinator for HWP4Y, shared this during the event.

“We are here. We want to support our community any way we can,” Hafner said.

One way she and the organization want to help is by providing age-appropriate resources to educate kids.

“Introducing this topic is hard, especially to young children, which is why parents can connect to our Facebook to get ideas on how to start the conversation,” Hafner said.

Healthy Kids Day also focuses on the physical health of children. Inside the YMCA gym, children could play basketball, catch, use hula-hoops and also participate in rock climbing. These events were run by YMCA staff members, who helped encourage these healthy habits.

“When my son was younger, he would come to the Y to play basketball and make friendships that still last today,” YMCA Staff Member Karen Dufresne said. “It’s nice seeing kids participate in these events and learn about a healthy lifestyle while also making lasting memories, like friendships.”

Fellow YMCA staff members Tracy Nault and McKenzie Feliciano added, “The YMCA is one group that



The rock climbing wall was one of the activities kids could try out during the event.

comes together for the community. We feel like a family.”

Along with YMCA-run physical activities, families had the opportunity to try a new sport for many: Palmball. Palmball’s founder and CEO, Steve “Coach Cree” Creelman, was present at the event to introduce parents to this activity and teach kids how to play “the best beach game on the planet”.

“Palmball promotes physical activity and an opportunity for families to be together and active during the sum-

mer,” Creelman said. “Volleyball and lacrosse and other sports coaches say it’s one of the best training methods for hand-eye coordination, but it’s also just a fun thing to do at the beach.”

Healthy Kids Day was a complete success for the YMCA, with many people attending to learn more about healthy habits and engage with their community. A happy and healthy summer is surely promised for children and their families after experiencing this valuable event.

Turley photos by Angelina Acevedo

Wilbraham Troop 359 holding Hill Climb Hamburger Stand on May 10

WILBRAHAM - Wilbraham Troop 359 will be selling hamburgers at the Hill Climb on Saturday, May 10 at Gazabo Park from 10 a.m. to 2

p.m. Troop 359 thanks you for your generous support as it helps support our scouts and their activities. Stop by, say

hello and check out the amazing Hill Climb!

For more information, contact John Guerin 413-388-3545.

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Meet the other Wilbraham Town Election Candidates

By Kristin Rivers
Editor
krivers@turley.com

WILBRAHAM - Leading up to election day, the Times has been highlighting the candidates running for boards and committees this coming town election.

The town election takes place on Saturday, May 17.

This week, let's meet Peter Manolakis, who is running for the Wilbraham Housing Authority and Natasha Ayres, who is running for Cemetery Commissioner.

Peter Manolakis, Wilbraham Housing Authority

Manolakis shared he's served in the position for the past 20 years, with the past 15 years as chairman.

"It is a great way for me to give back to the community where I have spent the last 30 years of my life," Manolakis said.

Manolakis was proud of these accomplishments, hoping to continue building on them as he continues serving the town in this role.

"We added 15 modern handicap units three years ago which was a large under-



Peter Manolakis Natasha Ayres

taking and has been a huge addition to our housing complex. We want to continue to make sure our units are up to today's standards," Manolakis said.

His goal for the role was simple.

"We hope to maintain a high standard of living at an affordable rate for the seniors of Wilbraham," Manolakis said.

Natashia Ayres, Cemetery Commissioner

Ayres is new to Wilbraham and wanted to have a position "in which I can be helpful to the people within my community."

"It feels very rewarding to be of service to others, particularly in their time of need. I look forward to getting to

know the fine people of Wilbraham through this role," Ayres said. "A successful Cemetery Commissioner needs to be a good communicator, follow the laws and regulations surrounding burials in the state of Massachusetts and be able to meet with people who are dealing with an emotionally difficult time in a helpful, clear, and kind manner."

Ayres shared that her experience as an Internal Auditing Intern for Eastern Bank "has given me the experience to learn and adhere to laws and regulations."

"In my time working at the Invasive Forest Insects Lab at UMass, communication and coordination between the Principal Investigator, the graduate students and our team of field workers were an essential part of my role. We had many experiments running, and lots of details to be coordinated with precision and care. It was in this role that I learned how much I love working out-

side. While working there, I honed my organizational skills and kept meticulous records of our data collection, which will serve me well as I record and maintain data of the burials and plot sales here in town and manage the various responsibilities of the cemetery," Ayres said. "More recently, I have experience working at Addgene, a non-profit DNA repository, where I was responsible for the logistics of shipping biological materials to scientists around the globe."

Ayres also loves cemeteries.

"Cemeteries are beautiful and historical places, and an important part of managing a cemetery involves regular tree pruning, a good relationship with the contractors who take care of the mowing and digging, and giving care and attention to the cemetery grounds, especially after big storms pass through to make sure the property is cleaned up and any issues are addressed," Ayres said. "I will attend to all of these tasks dutifully and with joy."

Ayres said she also looks forward to building "a collaborative relationship with the Department of Veterans Ser-

vices in town to assist with the various tasks that help us to honor and commemorate our fallen veterans."

"I will develop and maintain a good working relationship with the funeral home directors with whom I will work to arrange burials in a dignified, safe, and effective manner. I will be available and flexible with my time to assist with inquiries of finding a particular gravesite, selling plots, and arranging burials," Ayres said.

She noted how the town's cemeteries "are full of history" and wants to share that history with the community.

"An idea I have is to work with the local library and Historical Society to learn about some of the historical significance of the burial sites in our cemeteries and host an event in which our community can learn the history of Wilbraham through our cemeteries," Ayres said.

Ayres looks forward to serving the town.

"Most importantly, I look forward to treating the people of Wilbraham with the compassion and sensitivity they deserve when they are experiencing the loss of a loved one," Ayres said.

'Dine-Out Day' at Krazy Jakes May 15

WILBRAHAM - The Wilbraham-Hampden Rotary Club will hold Dine Out Day at Krazy Jake's, 2537 Boston Road on Thursday May 15 all day according to Rotary President Peter Salerno.

Krazy Jakes will donate 10 percent of their customers' meal check to the Rotary Club to support community services. The Dine Out event runs all day, from 9 a.m. until closing, said Salerno.

Diners must present a special voucher to Jakes wait staff in order for the donation to apply. The vouchers are easily obtained upon entering the restaurant.

All proceeds from the Dine Out will be used for community services that benefit everyone from school children to senior citizens. Some of the programs the club offers are the Dictionary Project where each third grader in Wilbraham and Hampden is given their own copy of their own dictionary. The club also gives out nine \$2,000 scholarships to high school seniors at Minnechaug

Please see **JAKES**, page 12

Eighth Grade Civics Project

HAMPDEN - Local students are holding a food drive to help the homeless with all proceeds going towards The Food Bank of Western Massachusetts.

The eight-grade civics project, organized by Shannon Wietecha, Ameila DePace and Sadie Dos Santos shared this on the project.

"Homelessness is a big issue in our community, and we want to fix that. An estimated 29,360 people are homeless in Massachusetts. We ask for your help to give these people the resources they need. Anything helps, even one can of

food," the students said.

The food drive is currently accepting canned, boxed, nonperishable foods such as canned proteins, canned beans, canned fruits and vegetables, canned soups, cereals, pasta, peanut butter, jelly, broths, honey, granola bars, boxed mac and cheese.

Please check expiration dates before donating.

The drive, which began April 29, runs through to May 10.

Donations can be dropped off at 625 Main St, Hampden, MA Hampden Public Library.

Annual Spec Pond Fishing Derby May 17

WILBRAHAM - The Annual Spec Pond Fishing Derby will be taking place at Spec Pond on Saturday, May 17 from 9 a.m. to Noon.

It is presented by the Friends of Recreation, the Parks and Rec Department and the MA Department of Fisheries and Wildlife.

No fishing license required: bait will be provided and trophies awarded to the first 30 kids -Free coffee, donuts, and water courtesy of Rices Fruit

Farm

The Grand Prize: \$100 DSG gift card awarded to the largest fish caught by length, courtesy of DSG

\$2 Donation or person or \$10 max per family

The main sponsor is Westfield Bank and supporting sponsors are Rice Fruit Farm, ACE Hardware, Monson Savings Bank, Country Bank, Rooney Insurance & Financial, Dick's Sporting Goods and the VFW.

VFW Post 9397 announces Day of Service to prepare for Memorial Day Parade

HAMPDEN - Pat Ledoux VFW Post 9397 is proud to announce its participation in the VFW National Day of Service with a community cleanup effort on Saturday, May 24, 2025, to prepare for the town's upcoming Memorial Day Parade and Ceremony.

Volunteers will gather at VFW Post 9397, located at 190 Main Street, Hampden, MA 01036, at 9:30 a.m., with an expected start time of 10 a.m.

Members of Post 9397 will begin at St. Mary's Catholic

Church and walk the Memorial Day Parade route, picking up trash and debris to ensure the route is clean, safe, and presentable for the solemn observances to come.

The Hampden Police Department will provide an escort to ensure participant safety throughout the cleanup.

The VFW Day of Service is a nationwide initiative highlighting the vital role veterans continue to play in serving and strengthening their communities.



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VIEWPOINTS



Please clear up our confusion about our Social Security payments

Dear Rusty:
I am thoroughly confused.
What do I need to do to continue receiving automatic Social Security deposits to my bank account and maintain our Medicare and Supplement health insurance? My wife has received her SS deposit regularly on the thirrd Wednesday each month with automatic bank deposit for many years. I have received my SS deposit regularly the fourth Wednesday each month with automatic bank deposit also for many years. Can you please tell me what to do to continue receiving these automatic deposits?
First, I hear that we do not need to do anything. Then I hear that we must show up in person at our local SS office to visually confirm our identity. We live 100 miles away from our only SS office and apparently, they don't take walk-ins. Next, I hear that we must contact the SS on the internet and answer their questions in order to continue receiving our checks. I am totally confused and don't know what to do and we don't want to miss our checks or have our Medicare and supplemental insurance cancelled. Can you please help us?
Signed: Confused in Hawaii

Dear Confused:
I know there have been a lot of news media reports and articles written on the recent changes announced by the Social Security Administration with respect to a need to confirm one's identity in-person. Allow me to set you mind at ease because, from what you have described that you are already receiving Social Security benefits and Medicare insurance, you do not need to do anything to have your Social Security benefits and your Medicare insurance continue without interruption and that includes your wife as well.
That which has been reported in the media is

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



Purple Martin

The Purple Martin Conservation Association reported in a press release the sighting of the first purple martin in Massachusetts on April 4 in Rehoboth.
The sighting was by a purple martin enthusiast, one of many individuals, who track and report on the birds' annual migration.
"The first purple martin arrivals of the season are always an exciting event," said

Joe Siegrist, President of the Purple Martin Conservation Association. "Tracking the migration is not only fun, it also provides us with valuable information that helps inform our research and strengthen our efforts to make sure we're doing everything possible to sustain the population of these amazing birds."
The Purple Martin is North America's largest species of swallow. It winters in the rainforests of Brazil before making up to a 7000-mile migration north into the eastern United States and Canada.
The Purple Martin Conservation Association said, "The annual migration is a testament to the martins' resilience as well as the unwavering dedication of thousands of 'martin landlords,' who maintain multi-compartment nest 'condos' that are essential for the birds' survival. Once widespread in rural

America, this species, that eats billions of flying insects annually, has been disappearing at an alarming rate, experiencing a loss of one-third of its population over the last 50 years.
"The decline seems to be the combination of a few factors: nesting habitat loss, competing invasive species, decreasing prey availability, and climate change," said Siegrist. "Over the majority of the purple martins' range, they are unable to nest naturally any longer. Human-provided nest boxes are the only thing keeping the species alive east of the Rocky Mountains."
The purple martin, the largest swallow in North America, is between 7.5 and 7.9 inches long. The adult males are iridescent, dark blue-purple overall with brown-black wings and tail. Both the females and immatures are duller with variable amounts of gray on the head and chest with a whitish lower belly.
These birds are colonial with dozens of martins nesting in the same spot in open areas especially near water. They return to the same nesting spot. In the east, they nest almost exclusively in nest boxes and martin houses. In the west, they nest in natural cavities.
Martins fly rapidly and

The Garden Nag

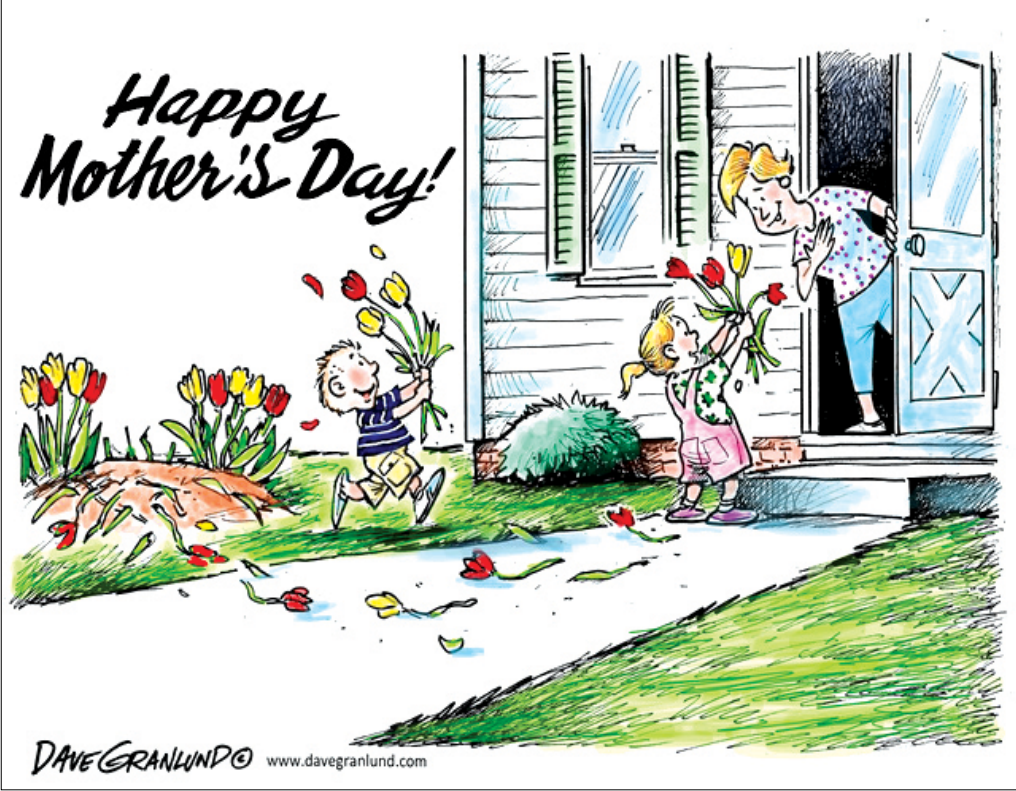
like that of shrubs. Without rejuvenation, their stems get woody and gangly.
The sage is about to flow-




er, so other than removing any obviously dead branches, I will come back in late June to tackle the rest of the rejuvenation. The lavenders have begun to show signs of life, so that I can prune now.
I may end up sacrificing a few blooms, but I think it will be worth it. I will cut deep within the plant to the first sign of fresh young growth. An application of fertilizer and lime and some extra water over the next couple of weeks will result in spry plants once more.
I was fortunate enough to have successfully moved an apothecary rose from my parent's garden to my former house and now to this present-day landscape. They sucker "wonderfully," that is, depending on where they are planted and who you ask!
On a hedge or banking, this habit would be welcomed. In my garden bed, it isn't always, especially when thorny shoots must be weeded out of neighboring plants, in my case, a bed of iris. Ouch!
I'll use the loppers for this

task, cutting back the shoots that had invaded foreign territory. With hand clippers I removed dead twigs, cut back weak growth to a strong point on the stem and redirected inward growth to an outward facing bud.
The rose will look great and in a little more than a month will be full of those beautiful pink and oh so fragrant blossoms.
Now, last but not least... the weeds. According to my personal dictionary of horticulture terms, a weed is simply a plant that is growing out of place.
The anise hyssop is a weed, as wonderful and fragrant as it is, when it volunteers itself out of bounds. It used to drive me crazy weeding. I had to save everything and plant it somewhere else.
Now I consider such weeds a gift to my compost pile when I have no room or no "takers."
Hard work, yes, but it'll be worth it! Now a trip to the garage or the chicken coop can be pleasurable once more.


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




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Policy

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

Correction Policy

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

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

Election letters to the editor welcome

The Wilbraham-Hampden Times welcomes readers to participate in this year's election campaigns by writing letters to the editor for publication on these pages. Letters of up to 250 words from local residents endorsing candidates on the ballot or discussing campaign issues should be sent to Wilbraham-Hampden Times, care of Turley Publications, 24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069, faxed to 413-289-1977 or emailed to krivers@turley.com. Please include a daytime telephone number for verification purposes (it will not be printed). Letters must be received by noon Monday to be considered for that Thursday's newspaper. No attack letters will be printed. No letters written by candidates supporting their own candidacy will be printed. If the volume of letters received is larger than the space available in the newspaper, or if the letters become repetitive, the newspaper reserves the right to print a representative sample. No endorsement letters will be printed in the last edition before the election.
For more information, call the editor at 413-283-8393.
Campaign news
As part of its election coverage, the newspaper plans to print stories about contested races for Congress, state Senate, state House, district attorney and Governor's Council during the weeks leading up to the election, as well as a question-and-answer voters guide. In order to ensure fairness to all candidates, no political press releases will be printed, nor will reporters cover political rallies or fundraisers.
Candidates who wish to further publicize their candidacy, beliefs and events may contact advertising, 413-283-8393 about paid advertising in Wilbraham-Hampden Times.

Life in &

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

WILBRAHAM HAMPDEN

A COMMUNITY GALLERY

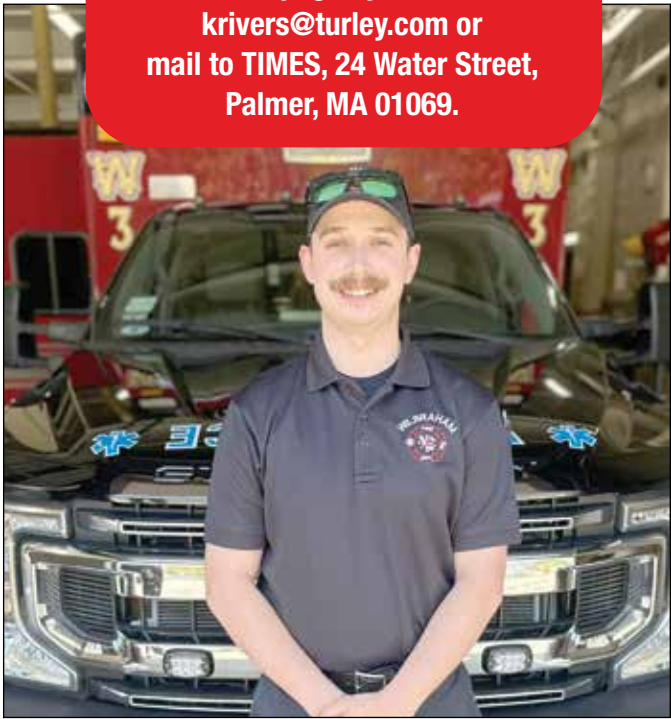


Photo and caption courtesy of Wilbraham Fire Dept.

Firefighter Ian Grimes
obtains paramedic license

Join us in congratulating Firefighter Ian Grimes on obtaining his National Registry Paramedic License! He will now ride along with a Wilbraham paramedic supervisor to complete 30 calls, securing his medical control approval from Baystate Medical Center.

Birthday Boy receives special visitor



Submitted photo Pamela Farrell

Landon Liebel celebrated his fourth birthday with a policeman party and was surprised with a special visitor! Office Johnston stopped by and according to Pamela Farrell, Liebel's grandmother, "he was so wonderful and made his day, sirens and all." Pictured here is the Birthday Boy himself, Landon Liebel, Ofc. Johnston and Liebel's brother, Brayden Liebel.

COMMUNITY BULLETIN BOARD

Birth Announcement

Welcome Clara Mary Ransom
born 4/21/25 to proud
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Love, Nana, Auntie and Grampy

Send us in your
announcements!
**Happy Birthdays,
Anniversaries, etc.**

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

Hampden Senior Center holds Volunteer Recognition Dinner



Submitted photos Joan Shea



Hampden Senior Center volunteers were celebrated at the Annual Volunteer Recognition Dinner on April 24. Attendees enjoyed a roast beef dinner, appetizers and dessert served by nursing students from Elms College and jukebox bingo games.



Photo and caption courtesy of Wilbraham Fire Dept.

WFD enjoys lemonade

What a gorgeous afternoon on April 22. The center of town is alive with lemonade stands springing up all around.



Daffodils
in full
bloom!

Daffodils are in
full bloom as we
enter the spring.

Submitted photo
Shelby Hines

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EXPO from page 1

“He loved Mother Earth,” Moriarty said. “I hope he is smiling down on us today.”

The expo’s participants had a wealth of green information to impart; many also shared personal stories about their connections to sustainable endeavors.

Bees and Bags

Beekeeper Sue Kendrick of Mountain View Farm of Hampden said that her grandfather, father and brother were all beekeepers.

“But they didn’t show me, maybe because I didn’t have much interest then or maybe because I was a girl,” Kendrick said. “My uncle did teach me a love for bees. He used to sit near the hives and say, ‘I love to see the girls work.’”

Kendrick taught herself beekeeping through reading and YouTube videos and devised her own method to handle heavy bee boxes. She now keeps four hives of her own.

She sells honey, cut comb, pollen, lotions and other hive products at 18 South Monson Rd in Hampden.

Fiber artist and teacher Talia Lefton brought along three sewing machines and many yards of recycled fabric. She helped expo-goers sew reusable bags from recycled materials.

Sam Webster, age 13, made a colorful bag from a parrot-print fabric. He’s had some sewing experience, so it wasn’t too difficult, although hemming the inside edges was a bit of a challenge.

“I sewed the bag shut,” Webster said, “but it was easy to rip it out and fix it.”

Young Farmer/Old Turtle

Clark Kadis runs a new seasonal farm stand selling nursery stock, hay, fruits and vegetables at 91 South Rd in Hampden. It’s his third year in business as Farmer Clark, having previously run a stand on Wilbraham Road in Hampden.

Kadis has long wanted to farm. He attended Smith Vocational and Agricultural High School and earned a bachelor’s degree in agricultural business from SUNY.

At the Eco-Expo, he sold jars of homemade pickles, birdhouses and plants and signed up potential customers to be notified when his farm stand opens in June.

Aemilia Thompson, education coordinator for Mass Audubon, informed residents of Hampden how Mass Audubon is a concerned steward of the town’s Laughing Brook Wildlife Sanctuary.

“We are working hard to keep that land and forest healthy,” Thompson said.

Thompson brought along Peta, a 27-year-old ornate box turtle, native to the Great Plains. Children were eager to meet the rescue turtle, and fascinated by the turtle skulls and shells on display. They asked, “Are those eye holes? How do you get a skull?”

Cuddly Goats and Chickens

Both children and adults crowded around Cloverbrook Farm’s baby goats and took turns holding the friendly animals.

Farm owner Shannon Gallagher said, “We hold them constantly from the day they are born so they are accustomed to people. Cuddling the goats is therapeutic; it lowers your blood pressure.”

Gallagher and her husband offer birthday parties, goat yoga, homeschooling sessions and other activities at their farm at 39 Parker St in East Longmeadow, where they have 14 horses, chickens and pigs as well as goats.

Self-taught woodworker Richard Muise sold his refillable, twist-style, hand-turned pens at the Eco-Expo. A believer that “the pen is mightier than the sword,” Muise has raised \$2,000 to benefit World Central Kitchen in Ukraine through one line of his pens. Another pen design features rainbow colors to support the LGBTQ community.

After raising chickens for “30-something years,” Kim Converse, with Chick Chick the chicken at her side, was happy to discuss the ups and downs of keeping poultry.

“I’m the head rooster,” Converse said. “You have to walk in the coop like you own it, otherwise the roosters might decide they don’t want you there. Hens are easy. I like how they snuggle. Chick Chick here likes to play with my neck.”

Biogas and Burials

Lisa Berkovits of the Northeast Biogas Initiative promoted small-scale biogas at the Eco-Expo. With a low-cost biogas system, you can transform kitchen scraps and even dog poop into methane biogas and liquid fertilizer.

“People are very interested in the resiliency aspect of using biogas,” Berkovits said. “It is particularly useful to have homemade fuel in the event of a natural disaster, where you may not have access to clean water, for example.”

Finally, representatives from local Forastiere Family Funeral & Cremation educated attendees about earth-friendly burial and cremation. Forastiere can arrange burials at sea with minimal environmental impact or can treat cremated remains to become part of a garden.

Other green options include wicker caskets, biodegradable urns made of salt rock and a process of turning ashes into unique small stones.

After the event, Moriarty stated: “This event is getting bigger and better each year and I hope that it will continue for many years to come. Thank you to everyone who participated in any way. It is so important to keep this topic in the forefront and to keep learning about the beautiful natural world around us.”



Debra Brown of Hampden's Spudley Sweets amped up her baking during the pandemic.



Beekeeper Sue Kendrick of Mountain View Farm sells honey and homemade hive products in Hampden.

Turley photos by Patricia Sullivan



Aemilia Thompson, education coordinator for Mass Audubon, displays Peta, a box turtle.



Shannon Gallagher of Cloverbrook Farm cuddled with Moose the goat.



Fiber artist Talia Lefton prepares upcycled fabric for an eco-friendly bag.



Lisa Berkovits promoted the benefits of biogas.



Eric, Ben (aka “the honey bear”) and Erin Kraus of Hampden’s Honey Bear Tea, which sells artisan tea blends and biscotti.



Roseann Ottani of Forastiere Family Funeral & Cremation spoke about natural solidified remains.



Hampden Library Director Ellen Moriarty organized the Eco-Expo (and cuddled a baby goat).

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Patullo, Mosier seeking reelection for town roles

By Kristin Rivers
Editor
krivers@turley.com

Editor's Note: Richard Patullo declined to send the Times a headshot, so we only have a photo of Duane Mosier for this story.

HAMPDEN - Treasurer Richard Patullo and Cemetery Commissioner Duane Mosier are running for reelection to their roles in the upcoming town election.

The town election takes place on Monday, May 19.

Richard Patullo, Treasurer

Patullo shared he got involved in local government after retiring from the retail hardware business after 25 years.

"I was asked to work a couple of days a week assisting the Tax Collector. When the Treasurer's position opened 15 years ago, I moved to that elected position. I have always done well in accounting even back to my college days," Patullo said. "I have completed the three-year education program sponsored by our state association for both tax collector and treasurer and am certified as a treasurer."

Numbers are what inspired him to run for the position.

"I have always been good with numbers. Numbers have a right answer. To be able to have a job you are good at is a pleasure," Patullo said. "I must admit it being a 25-hour-a-week job and two miles from my house is also nice."

A success and an ongoing goal for Patullo is managing the town's funds in addition to other varied tasks the treasurer does and oversees, expressing pride in tackling technology and enhancements for payroll processing and records storage.

"The job has a number of varied tasks but the management of the town's funds is the highest priority. We have very good banking relationships. This results in excellent interest income and virtually no banking costs. We have been working hard to use technology to streamline processes. In the last year, we have made big changes on payroll processing and records storage," Patullo said. "The Treasurer's office has also become an important source of information

for data-driven decision-making for other departments and committees."

Patullo emphasized preparing for the road ahead and sharing knowledge with future staff as his vision for his next term.

"We are entering a difficult time with costs rising. Careful management of cash flow will be required to keep property taxes from increasing more than absolutely necessary," Patullo said. "There has been some staff turnover in the town and the next few years will bring more. Passing on knowledge needs to be a big priority."

Duane Mosier, Cemetery Commissioner

Mosier explained he became Cemetery Commissioner after Selectboard Chair Don Davenport asked him to join the commission, crediting him for his start.

"I was asked by Selectman, Don Davenport, to fill a vacancy on the Cemetery Commission and have since chosen to run for the office," Mosier said. "I have served on Hampden's Planning Board, Select Board and Zoning Board of Appeals as well

as many committees."

Mosier stressed detail as the most important component of the role and how the CIMS software program and addressing landscapes for cemeteries in town have been the successes during his term. Also, continuing to improve them when needs arise.

"The Cemetery Commissioner's job requires attention to detail for the needs of our people especially in sensitive times," Mosier said. "The Commissions uses the CIMS software program, specifically for cemeteries. We have addressed the landscape in both Prospect Hill Cemetery and Old Cemetery by clearing brush, removing trees and repairing roads. We continue the work to improve both cemeteries."

Mosier's vision for his next term is to continue preserving the cemeteries in Hampden and the work that has been done thus far.

"The cemeteries are the final resting places for Hampden residents, representing the town's history and our goal is to emphasize and beautify the gravestones of all deceased. These represent so much history—humor, sadness, loss—a picture of family. It is a walk in time," Mosier said.

Friends of Hampden Senior Citizens announce events

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

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

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

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

This event is sponsored by The Friends of The Hampden Senior Citizens and although it is free we will gladly accept any monetary donation. These donations fund the programs and events that are held at the center for all who attend.

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

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

Hampden Memorial Day Parade & Ceremony scheduled for May 26

HAMPDEN - Pat Le-doux VFW Post 9397, in partnership with the Town of Hampden, proudly invites the public to attend the Annual Memorial Day Parade and Ceremony on Monday, May 26, 2025, to honor and remember those who made the ultimate sacrifice in service to our country.

The parade will step off at 10 a.m. from St. Mary's Catholic Church, located at 27 Somers Road, Hampden, and proceed down Main Street to the Veterans Memorial at the Hampden Town Center, where the town's Memorial Day Ceremony will begin at approximately 11 a.m.

This year's parade will feature: Local veterans, civic leaders, scout groups, youth sports teams, community organizations, musical per-

formances by Minnechaug Regional High School's Marching Band and Choir, vintage military vehicles and patriotic displays

Following the ceremony, refreshments will be served at VFW Post 9397 for all veterans, participants, and community members.

Rain Plan:

In the event of rain or inclement weather, the parade will be canceled, and the Memorial Day Ceremony will move indoors to Hampden Town Hall, located at 625 Main Street.

Join us this Memorial Day as we honor, remember, and celebrate our nation's fallen heroes.



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

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

This popular, family-friendly 5K road race begins at Christ the King – Epiphany Church, 758 Main Street, Wilbraham,

MA, and winds through a flat, fast course in surrounding neighborhoods, ending at Rice Fruit Farm across the street from the start. Pre-registration fee for runners and walkers is \$20, while day-of-race registration is \$25.

Ages 18 and under registra-

tion is \$15 including day-of registration.

The first 150 registered runners by May 13, 2023 will receive our famous race t-shirt featuring the "Running Apple" logo, and all registered runners will receive a free Rice Fruit Farm ice cream with their bib

number on day of race only. Cash prizes will be awarded in several categories, and all proceeds benefit the Minnechaug Land Trust.

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

PROJECTS from page 1

the department, etc. etc.' So, basically in 2020, the town hired a firm called Mitchell Associates and they conducted a huge assessment needs analysis and proposed some possible plans for the town on what to do with the station," Barba said.

After the projects came "way more than what the town had an appetite for at the time" from \$5 million to \$15 million, Barba said the project "kind of got kicked around" and another firm called Tecton was hired in 2023 by the town "to come up with, maybe, some different ideas and get community input."

Afterward, a community needs assessment, community outreach and meetings were conducted, leading to the conclusion a project needed to be done.

"They came up with some proposals. Again, they were expensive and they didn't really fit the needs of the department," Barba said.

In 2024, a building committee was formed and a third firm, Saccoccio & Associates, was hired, dovetailing off the prior plans and coming up with the current plan for a remodel/addition.

"It's still staying at 19 North Road. This is not a completely new building. We're going to utilize the existing station and add on and remodel what's there to address the issues that were brought up," Barba said.

The issues, Barba shared, are the space, no separation of areas between decontamination when coming back from a call from the rest of the fire station, HVAC system and major code violations including non-ADA compliant and asbestos.

"The space currently that we have there is inadequate for modern-day firefighting equipment. Just the pure size of trucks over time has drastically changed," Barba said. "This station was built in 1963. The size of the equipment back then is half of what it was today, and we're still working in a building from 1963. So, the apparatus, bays and space for firefighting equipment doesn't work. Basically, for us to buy equipment to fit into the existing station is custom equipment, it's custom-size and it's drastically more expensive than buying more of a modern-day fire equipment."

There's also no office

space.

"The general public walks right into the radio room and that is the one office that we have for the chief, admin and the public and it's the walkway between the outside and the fire department apparatus bay is one long hallway," Barba said. "Basically, everything's operating out of a hallway, which doesn't work."

Barba shared the new project "basically takes care of all of these issues."

"It gives us more space, it separates the bad stuff from the good stuff--meaning the area that you would work in and the area you need to be separated--it gives us area to wash and clean, decontaminate our equipment when it comes back, especially our gear that we wear. Gives us a separate area to store our gear for changing," Barba said. "And it's certainly more energy-efficient for sure."

Also, it helps keep people wanting to come to the fire

department to volunteer.

"We still rely tremendously on the call part of the department. We are a Monday through Friday 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. first shift department, but after that, we rely 100% on people like myself and people that come in and come to a call," Barba said. "We've got upwards of 30 people right now on board."

Barba added for the equipment there's no space for that either.

"Our equipment that we store for the guys and women, half of it's just laying on the ground," Barba said. "Our equipment is stored right next to the trucks. You've got a foot or two between your gear and an 80,000 pound truck that's backing up, so it's extremely dangerous."

Addressing the space also preps the fire department for the future, Barba added, providing "a little buffer room for usable space down the road," including an proposed

unfinished project upstairs.

Currently, the fire station measures approximately 5,000 square feet. The proposed project would provide another approximately 5,000 square feet on the ground level and approximately 2,000 square feet "up a level that is unfinished."

"We project this building would last us at least 20-plus years into the future," Barba said.

Barba noted this comment from Mitchell Associates, the first firm.

"One of their comments was, 'The existing station is in good condition from a structural perspective. Spatial issues and safety and health concerns for all first responders working in this building present risks which require immediate attention and resolution,'" Barba said. "So, again, this is not us saying, 'We want a new building. We don't like this building.' Professionals have come in. Peo-

ple have determined that this really is an unsafe building. It's outweighed its capacity. In 1963 when the building was built, town had roughly 80, 90 calls a year. We're up to somewhere between 500 and 550 calls a year, just on a volume basis."

If this passes at ATM and then moves forward after the special election vote, Barba said an owners project manager will be hired and the architects will get on board for final plans and put it out to bid.

He stressed fire station would still be up and running during the project.

"My hope would be to have everything in place between bids and selecting contractors to possibly start in the spring of 2026," Barba said. "So, that gives us--if it's approved--seven, eight-ish months to get everything done, ready to break ground next spring would be our goal."

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Abigail Camire sends a pitch home.

SPORTS

Minnechaug softball edges Monson

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

MONSON—The first meeting of the regular season between the Minnechaug Regional and Monson varsity softball teams on April 18 was a slugfest.

When the two squads faced each other again in another non-league game two weeks later, it was an old fashion pitcher's duel.

The Lady Falcons snapped a three game losing streak by squeaking out an exciting 4-3 victory at the Quarry Hill Community School softball field in Monson, last Saturday

afternoon.

"We played very well in today's game and didn't make very many errors. We're a pretty good softball team and I'm hoping that this win gives the players a lot more confidence," said Minnechaug head coach Molly Cole. "I also thought both starting pitchers pitched very well."

The Lady Falcons made the short bus ride back to Wilbraham with a 5-7 overall record.

The winning pitcher was sophomore righthander Abigail Camire, who allowed three runs on seven hits with two walks and five strikeouts.

"This was Abigail's second win against Monson and her third overall this season," Cole said. "She just kept hitting her spots and kept moving the ball around. She made the Monson batters earn their hits."

Camire also picked up the win as a relief pitcher in the first meeting of the season against the Lady Mustangs, which was a 12-9 home victory.

After winning the first four games of the regular season, the Lady Mustangs (5-9), have now lost nine of their last ten games.

"We've been on a losing streak the past couple of weeks, but we've played a lot of close games," said Monson head coach Matt Hull. "We've also been playing higher Division teams. We've been facing quality pitchers, which should only help us in the postseason tournaments."

The only two Division 5 teams on the Lady Mustangs regular season schedule are Hopkins Academy and Palmer.

Prior to the start of last Saturday's game, Monson seniors Natalie Hull, Molly Szado, and Ella Cortell, along with sophomore Chelsea Hull were honored for recently collecting their 100th career base hits.

"Those four players have been playing for the vari-



Abby Peyman makes a great play on a backhand grounder.



Mylie Mittler makes a catch on a pop-up.



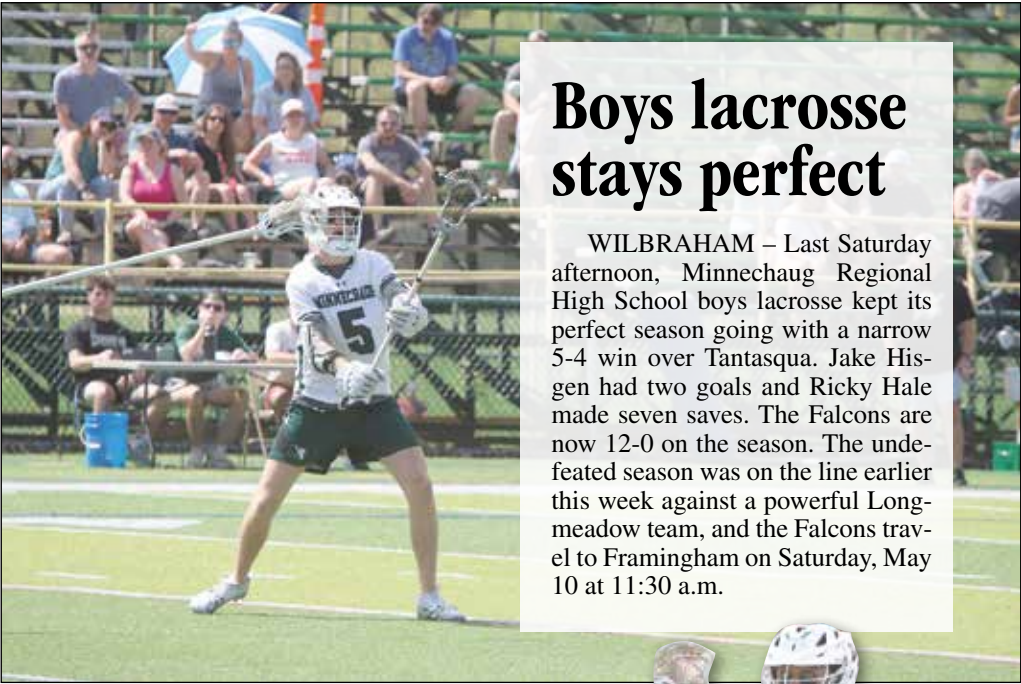
Ella Ferrentino attempts a bunt.

Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli

Please see **SOFTBALL**, page 12



Alexa Sherman fouls off a pitch.



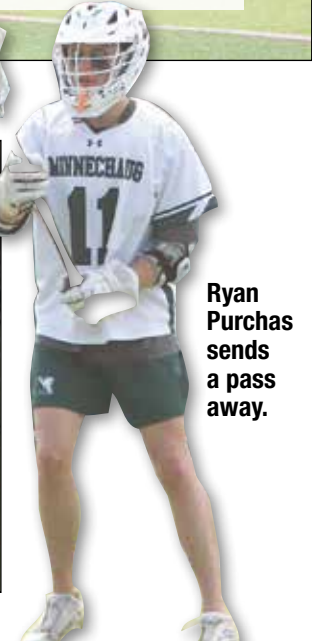
Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli
Matthew Beaudin makes a pass.

Boys lacrosse stays perfect

WILBRAHAM – Last Saturday afternoon, Minnechaug Regional High School boys lacrosse kept its perfect season going with a narrow 5-4 win over Tantasqua. Jake Hisgen had two goals and Ricky Hale made seven saves. The Falcons are now 12-0 on the season. The undefeated season was on the line earlier this week against a powerful Longmeadow team, and the Falcons travel to Framingham on Saturday, May 10 at 11:30 a.m.



Jacob Hisgen sends a pass forward.



Ryan Purchas sends a pass away.



Matthew Noonan picks up a loose ball in traffic.



Ayden Sackrider picks up a loose ball.



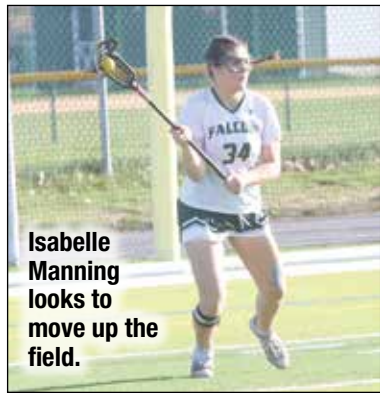
Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli
Genny Johnson makes a pass out of the circle.



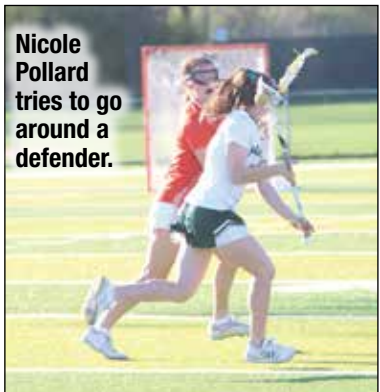
Peyton Lee breaks away from an Agawam defender.



Sophia Kozub makes a pass on the run.



Isabelle Manning looks to move up the field.



Nicole Pollard tries to go around a defender.

Falcons score revenge on Agawam

WILBRAHAM – Last Monday afternoon, Agawam girls lacrosse fell on the road at Minnechaug 11-6. The Falcons avenged an 8-4 Agawam win earlier this year. With the win, Minnechaug picked up its fourth win of the season. Agawam fell to 6-4 on the season. Minnechaug would fall in two more matchups with East Longmeadow and Longmeadow later in the week.



Aubrey Stachowicz picks up a ball on the grounds.

SPORTS

WMass Baseball Hall of Fame announces Class of 2025 inductees

HOLYOKE – The Western Massachusetts Baseball Hall of Fame Committee is proud to announce the induction of its Class of 2025, recognizing a distinguished group of individuals who have made significant contributions to the sport of baseball in the region. The induction ceremony will take place on June 5 at 6 p.m. at the Wyckoff Country Club in Holyoke.

This year’s honorees include:

- Pete Fatse: An infielder who played at Minnechaug Regional High School and the University of Connecticut. Fatse was selected by the Milwaukee Brewers in the 24th round of the 2009 MLB draft. He currently serves as the hitting coach for the Boston Red Sox.
- Todd Ezold: A standout catcher for Classical High School in Springfield and the University of Massachusetts
- Amherst. While at UMass, Ezold was a finalist for a position on the 1984 US Olympic Baseball team and was later drafted by the New York Yankees in the 18th round of the 1985 Draft.
- Terry Murphy: Former Mayor of Holyoke. A graduate of Holyoke High School, Murphy played for Holyoke Community College and Stonehill College, contributing to the legacy of baseball in the area.
- Tom Sgroi: Coaching Westfield High School from 1983 to 2003, Sgroi achieved an impressive record of 330 wins and five Western Massachusetts championships, earning his place in the Massachusetts Baseball Coaches Association Hall of Fame in 1996.
- Kevin Stannard: Recently retired after over 30 years of coaching at Taconic High School, Stannard led his teams to more than 400 victories and state championships in 2017, 2019, and 2021.
- Rich Tettemer: The Hall of Fame committee is pleased to award the Garry Brown Excellence Award to Rich Tettemer, who has been a prominent figure in local sports media since joining WWLP in April 1988. Rich currently anchors the weekday morning and noon editions of 22News.

“We are thrilled to honor this remarkable group of individuals whose contributions to baseball in Western Massachusetts have left a lasting impact,” said Matt Drury, President, Valley Blue Sox. “Their achievements reflect the rich history and passion for the game in our community.”

The induction ceremony will include remarks from each inductee, celebrating their accomplishments and contributions to the sport.

T-Birds make donation to Rays of Hope

SPRINGFIELD – The Springfield Thunderbirds announced a donation of \$38,300 to the Rays of Hope thanks to proceeds from the live jersey auction and accompanying fundraising elements during the T-Birds’ 8th Annual Pink in the Rink game on March 8.

Thunderbirds President Nathan Costa, Vice President of Sales & Strategy Todd McDonald, and Managing Partner Paul Picknelly presented a check to the Rays of Hope earlier this month inside the MassMutual Center. This year’s Pink in the Rink game, the eighth annual centerpiece of the T-Birds’ community calendar, raised another tremendous total through auction sales of the T-Birds’ pink-themed, game-worn jerseys. The MassMutual Center also continued its “Pink” sellout streak, as the crowd reached its maximum capacity of 6,793 fans for an eighth straight Pink in the Rink.

“Pink in the Rink has truly grown into one of Springfield’s most powerful and uplifting traditions,” said Costa. “Thanks to our incredible partnership with Baystate Health and the Rays of Hope Foundation, this night continues to unite our community in hope, strength, and support. To see our eighth consecutive sellout is a testament to the heart of our fans and the importance of this cause. The energy in the Thunderdome is always palpable, the stories are deeply moving, and the courage of the survivors continues to inspire us all. We can’t wait to build on this momentum next season — and we hold onto hope for the day a cure is finally found.”

Established in T-Birds’ inaugural season in 2016-17, “Pink in the Rink” celebrates the commencement of the Rays of Hope fundraising efforts each March to shine a light on breast cancer awareness outside of the traditional October awareness month. Every year, the fundraising efforts culminate in the annual Rays of Hope Walk & Run in October in downtown Springfield. Since the establishment of this staple night, the Thunderbirds have generated more than \$175,000 for the Rays of Hope Foundation, all of which stays local in Western Massachusetts in pursuit of a cure.

“Rays of Hope is very fortunate to have the support of the Springfield Thunderbirds and their fans,” said Baystate Health Foundation Director of Annual Giving and Events Kathy Tobin. “Thanks to their efforts, Pink in the Rink makes this disease visible and reminds the community that breast cancer is a year-round fight for too many. The generosity of our pink partners allows

Please see **T-BIRDS**, page 13

WMass Pioneers release 2025 schedule

LUDLOW – For several years, the Western Mass. Pioneers have been a mainstay in spring-summer soccer and have entertained the early on many Fridays and Saturday nights with great semi-pro action.

The Pioneers will return to the field at Lusitano Stadium in Ludlow for another round of games in 2025.

One thing missing from the Pioneers schedule is an appearance in the Open Cup. The Pioneers have done that in late March or April the past two seasons, but it does not appear on their schedule this season.

The season opener for the Pioneers is against Boston City on the road on Thursday, May 15 at 7 p.m. They will play the Albany Rush on Monday, May 19 after that, then gear up for their home opener on Friday, May 23 at 7:30 p.m. against league rival Seacoast United Phantoms. The Pioneers have a total of seven home games on their slate.

They also usually schedule a “friendly” game prior to the start of the season, though that has not been scheduled as of press time.

For more information on the 2025 Pioneers, go to www.wmpioneers.com



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SOFTBALL from page 11

ty softball team since they were in the seventh grade,” Matt Hull said. “It was nice to celebrate their achievements before the start of today’s game.”

During the next couple of years, Chelsea Hull will have the opportunity to break the team record of 156 career hits, which is currently held by Hannah Colling, who graduated in 2016.

Chelsea Hull was also the Lady Mustangs starting pitcher in the home game against Minnechaug. She allowed four runs on six hits. She also walked two and struck out a season-high 11 batters. Hull didn’t receive very much support from the defense, who made three errors leading to three unearned runs.

“We made a couple of costly errors, which you can’t afford to do in a close game,” Matt Hull said. “I think our pitcher only allowed one earned run.”

The lefthander hit freshman Kaelyn Dionne with the first pitch that she threw in the game. Dionne then stole second base.



Turley photo by Gregory A. Scibelli

Aezlin Rost watches a play unfold as she passes second.

Hull retired the next two batters on a pop-up and a strikeout before senior Ava Peabody hit a line-drive single into right field scoring Dionne from second base. Peabody was the only Minnechaug batter who had two hits in the game.

With one-out in the bottom of the first inning, Chelsea Hull hit a flyball single to center. She stole second with two outs before Corthell drew a walk. Camire escaped that jam by getting the next batter to fly out.

Neither team was able to score any runs in the second or third innings.

Minnechaug junior Aezlin Rost hit a fly ball that was dropped by the leftfielder leading off the fourth inning. A wild pitch advanced Rost to third base before she crossed the plate on a bunt hit from freshman Mylie Mittler with one-out.

“Taking a 2-0 lead was huge for us,” Cole said. “Our defense has been given up too many early runs.”

The Lady Mustangs scored all three of their runs in the home half of the fourth. Freshman Maya Summers began the rally by hitting a double to right field before scoring on a wild pitch.

Freshman Cali Zielinski followed with a single and scored the tying run when eighth grader Evangeline Renna beat out an infield hit to the shortstop. Natalie Hull drove home the go-ahead run with another single to right field.

Camire then retired ten of the final eleven Monson batters that she faced.

Minnechaug quickly retook the lead with the help of a couple of errors made by the Monson defense in the top of the fifth.

With one-out, sophomore Veronica Ouimet hit a grounder to the third baseman, but she wound up standing on second base following a throwing error. She scored when Peabody hit another ground ball which was misplayed by the first baseman for an error. Then Rost hit a ground ball single to right plating the go-ahead run making the score 4-3.

The home team had one final chance to score the tying or game winning run in the bottom of the seventh.

Chelsea Hull singled to center with two outs before stealing second base. She moved to third base on a wild pitch that bounced to the backstop. Then Camire ended the drama and the Lady Falcons losing streak with an infield pop-up.

Pianist to perform at Wilbraham Library

WILBRAHAM– Pianist Richard Hughes will present The Golden Age of Silent Movies at the Wilbraham Public Library on Monday, May 12 at 6 p.m.

Hughes will highlight a selection of early cartoons, historical dramas, serial thrillers, and slap-stick comedies featuring legends like Harold Lloyd, Charlie Chaplin and Buster Keaton, all brought to life with sound effects and live musical accompaniment. Audience members will also have the opportunity to synchronize sound effects to a 1913 melodrama using animation devices.

This free event is sponsored by the Wilbraham Friends of the Library. Registration is encouraged as space is limited.

Sign up at wilbrahamlibrary.org, or call the library at 413-596-6141.

JAKES from page 4

Regional High School, Wilbraham & Monson Academy and Pope Francis Prep School who are residents of the two towns.

Other Rotary projects include the annual Christmas Tree Lighting and equipment helping the Community Survival Center supply food and other items to local needy people.

The Rotary Club’s motto is “Service Above Self”. For more information about the Dine Out Day call club President Peter Salerno at 203-214-7954 or email PSalerno1@aol.com.

Saturday, May 17, 2025

Gates open at 9:00am



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Our mission is to give Veterans an unforgettable track experience.



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Start Time: 9:00am

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Wilbraham-Hampden Scholarship Foundation Annual Raffle

WILBRAHAM - The Wilbraham-Hampden Scholarship Foundation has mailed raffle tickets to every home and business in the town of Wilbraham and Hampden. You should have received your golden tickets in the mail last week! All proceeds go to our scholarship fund which benefits the seniors of

Minnechaug Regional High School. Tickets are \$25 and are tax-deductible as our organization is recognized under Section 501(c)(3) of the IRS code. Prizes include a \$1000 gift certificate to Manny’s TV and Appliance, a 1-year Family Membership to the YMCA, Red Sox tickets, \$300 Big Y gift card and

other fabulous items and gift cards, donated by local businesses. If you didn’t receive a ticket in the mail or would like to purchase more, please email wilbrahamhampden-scholarship@gmail.com. For more information, please visit our website at wilbraham-hampdenscholarship-foundation.org.

BOURCIER from page 1

“The neighborhood’s enduring nineteenth-century charm filled my childhood with a sense of wonder, igniting a deep curiosity about the rich stories rooted in my surroundings at 6 Chapel Street,” Bourcier said. “Amid this historically rich setting, two individuals played a particularly influential role in nurturing my passion for the past: my next-door neighbors, Andy and Barbara Nygren. Their love for history acted as a guiding light, inspiring me to explore the many layers of time that shaped Wilbraham.”

When asked what his favorite tale was to put together for the book, Bourcier picked this one.

“One of my favorite tales is ‘Love, Tragedy, and the Pesky Serpent,’ which recounts the tragic death of 22-year-old Timothy Mirick, who was fatally struck by a rattlesnake in 1761. This was the very first local story I discovered as a young child, and it left a lasting impression on me,” Bourcier said. “In fact, the snake featured in the logo of Wilbraham Historical Tidbits is a tribute

to this unforgettable piece of our history.”

Bourcier encouraged residents to support their favorite local authors.

“Supporting local authors not only encourages the creative spirit within our communities but also plays a vital role in preserving the stories, traditions and heritage that define us. By valuing and promoting local history, we ensure that future generations remain connected to the rich narratives that shaped their hometowns,” Bourcier said.

Bourcier will, also, be holding a presentation about the book on Thursday, May 15, at 1:30 p.m. at the senior center, encouraging residents to attend.

“I’ll share an overview of Wilbraham Historical Tidbits and what inspired its creation. We’ll also take a closer look at one of the stories featured in my new book: ‘The Melancholy Murmurs of Nabby’s Tea Leaves,’ which recounts the tragic drowning that claimed the lives of six young people in 1799,” Bourcier said. “At the conclusion of the presentation, I will hold a book signing. All proceeds from

books sold that day will benefit the Friends of Wilbraham Seniors.”

Bourcier wants the community to know the importance of understanding local history, hoping they connect with it wherever they go.

“The reason I began this endeavor was to help people connect with our local history. Whether you’re a long-time resident or new to the community, I believe it’s important to know the real-life stories that have shaped Wilbraham,” Bourcier said. “As time passes, these stories can begin to fade, and I feel a strong responsibility to keep them alive for future generations to enjoy and embrace. My second book, ‘The George M. Kingdon Fire Company,’ continues this mission by covering nearly 200 years of firefighting history in Wilbraham—from the 1820s all the way to 2019, when I retired as fire chief.”

To learn more about Wilbraham’s history, visit the Wilbraham Historical Tidbits website at <https://david-bourcier.wixsite.com/wilbraham-tidbits> or check out their Facebook page.

T-BIRDS from page 12

us to fulfill our mission of ensuring that, through research, medical intervention, and healthy programs, thousands of local survivors receive the care they deserve.”

Since its inception in 1994, Rays of Hope has raised over \$17.7 million to support the women and men living in Western Massachu-

setts touched by breast cancer. Funds also support vital research at the Rays of Hope Center for Breast Cancer Research.

The T-Birds Foundation was established in 2018 with a mission of serving the Springfield community and the Pioneer Valley beyond every win and loss through a focus on providing and supporting initiatives in the areas of health and well-

ness, youth enrichment, and civil service. During the 2024-25 season, the T-Birds Foundation raised more than \$115,000 for charitable causes in Western Massachusetts.

This year’s Rays of Hope Walk & Run Toward the Cure of Breast Cancer will be held on Sunday, October 19. For more information, visit Baystatehealth.org/Raysofhope or call 413-794-8001.

Executive Director of the Scantic Valley YMCA receives MVP Award

WILBRAHAM/HAMPDEN – Debbie Kelder, executive director of the Scantic Valley YMCA received the Gina Kahn MVP Award for the month of April.

Nomination:

Debbie Kelder, the Executive Director of the Scantic Valley YMCA, exemplifies what it means to be a valuable person to youth in this community. She ensures the YMCA meets the needs of the community. She goes above and beyond for the members of the Y.

Debbie participates in community meetings to hear the needs of the community.

She sponsors events to support each unique population within the community.

She sponsors fairs for the elderly as well as for the youth. She is open to new ideas and suggestions.

She maintains a safe, fun, and clean environment for youth and families to visit. She always displays kindness and focuses on the YMCA, being a place to meet the individual needs of all within the community.

Debbie Kelder is an asset to the Hampden Wilbraham community and we all are so very grateful to have her in our community.



Debbie Kelder

VFW Post 9397 hosting Steamers

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

The menu is steamers, clam chowder, clam strips,

chicken tenders, French fries and onion rings. The price is market dependent.

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Honoring the Life of E. Tomaya “Honey” Porter

April 28, 2025

A Celebration of Life was held for E. Tomaya Porter on Saturday, April 26, 2025. Despite the consistent rain and chilly temperatures, 100 people came to pay their respects to her family and participate in the day devoted to honoring the woman she was to them. Family and friends included local residents and travelers from eastern Massachusetts, Connecticut, New Hampshire, Maine, New York, Pennsylvania, North Carolina, Georgia, Arizona, and Oregon. The event was held at the Country Club of Wilbraham.

Like many events of this type, a collection of photos of Tomaya showcased her life. There were original black and whites of her as a baby and as a young girl with her mother. With the help of family members, pictures chronicled Tomaya’s life as a young girl growing up in Philadelphia, PA, before moving to New York, where she lived with her parents, sister, and brother. Additional photos showed her on her wedding day. She married Ronald Porter in 1965. They were married for fifty-nine years. Tomaya and Roald moved to Massachusetts in 1974 and raised their three girls, Candice, Heather, and Kelli, in Wilbraham. Ronald still lives in the house that he and Tomaya called home.

The room at the event was a testament to the many things that brought Tomaya joy. Her son-in-law, Ed, created a video of nearly two hundred photos that played on a loop on a large projector screen in the room for the duration of the celebration. In another corner, a large screen TV played clips of some of Tomaya’s favorite scenes from iconic old movies and the science fiction films she loved. Four of Tomaya’s original paintings were prominently displayed on easels in the room. The paintings included her first oil painting of a mountain scene, one of her very favorites, a grist mill, and a third painting of a pastel-hued sunset over a marshy landscape. The final painting was the last time she put paint and brush to canvas. It is a Los Angeles city skyline with palm trees, painted at the request of her only grandson, Jakob, in 2021. It is the only painting signed as both “Tomaya” and “Honey.”

Other decorations included a banner of two family favorite photos of her, a blanket she crocheted for her daughter and son-in-law, a poster-sized rendering of the obituary notice that ran in our paper in early April, and a three-panel screen that showed some of the many sympathy cards that were sent to her family. Since Christmas was Tomaya’s favorite holiday, there was a mini lighted Christmas tree, and an illuminated glass block inscribed with the word “Believe.” Her crafty sister from Arizona made the block. Tomaya’s favorite flower was the gardenia. She loved candles and using Christmas and fairy lights to decorate areas of her home. The centerpieces were gardenia scented candles nestled in light glass pebbles with colored lights, all housed in vases of different shapes, sizes, and colors. Attendees with a birthday closest to Tomaya’s were selected to take home the centerpiece for their table.

In addition to family who came from near and far, the room was filled with each of the girls’ childhood and high school friends. People who hadn’t seen Tomaya in nearly thirty years but remembered the last advice she gave them came to revere what they had learned from her. Guests had been asked not to wear black unless it was fun and flirty! Tomaya was a fancy dresser in her younger years, and the family wanted to commemorate that spirit. Attendees wore fun and energetic colors and prints, with one group of friends all sporting pink and white boas!

The day opened with a blessing from one of her daughter’s brothers-in-law. He and Tomaya presided over the wedding of his brother Ed to her daughter Heather, twenty-five years ago. Ed was the emcee for the day, assisting his wife and sisters-in-law with their readings and tributes. Tomaya’s youngest daughter, Kelli, opened the tributes with a memory she shared with an old friend who couldn’t attend the event. She then shared many things about her mother that her childhood friends still remember. Her middle daughter, Heather, read an original writing from 2023 that her mother inspired. Tomaya had often said that she took fifty years to come down the birth canal before owning and understanding who she was on this planet. It was the last piece she read to her mother before she passed away in March. Her middle granddaughter, Miranda, read an original poem expressing her admiration for her grandmother. Her oldest daughter, Candice, read a heartfelt piece about losing not just her mom but also a friend. A more light-hearted poem that culled a collection of “T” words was read by a family member. The final tribute came from her son-in-law Ed, who shared the place she filled in his life and the lives of his brothers after their mother passed away eighteen years ago. The afternoon was closed with a song sung by a good family friend, Barraud Braxton of Springfield. Tomaya’s husband and daughters asked him to sing a song after a moving song he sang to Tomaya when she was in hospice care. He sang “Fly Me to the Moon” with a few lyrics changed to address Tomaya specifically.

The Grille at the Country Club of Wilbraham coordinated the appetizers and a tasty buffet that satisfied all palates. The meal was complemented with a strawberry shortcake dessert. Throughout the afternoon, a signature drink, a Tomaya Sunrise, was served in a champagne flute. The drink was a twist on the tequila sunrise. Tomaya loved celebrating small and large events with champagne, so the cocktail was made with prosecco.

Although there were some tears in the room from various loved ones, most of the day was marked by happy stories, heartfelt hugs, and the overwhelming love people felt for a woman who had touched their lives in various ways. Tomaya had requested that her family not have a wake or a funeral for her. In her handwriting, in a note found on her jewelry box after she passed, she gave her family the guidance they would need: “Don’t cry because I’m gone – Celebrate because I was here!” The family was able to honor that last wish.

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62						63				64		

CLUES ACROSS

- Herring-like fish
- Perform on stage
- Soda
- Small growth
- In support of
- Step taken when walking
- Hollyhocks
- Returned material authorization (abbr.)
- Feel pain
- San Diego ballplayer
- Inches per minute (abbr.)
- Fat from a pig’s abdomen
- Create again
- Honors once more
- Thin coating of gold
- Welsh river
- Japanese novelist Mizumura
- Husks of corn

- Green vegetable
- Showing guilt
- Soldier
- Photographers
- Language spoken in Nigeria
- Mimic
- Expressed pleasure
- Ancient Greek sophist
- Beverage container
- Night monkey genus
- Lace bugs
- Hogshead (abbr.)
- Frameworks
- Keyboard key
- Greek goddess of the dawn
- Influential Korean independence figure

CLUES DOWN

- A place to unwind

- Helped (archaic)
- Razorbill genus
- Bleached
- Continent
- Fruit preserved in syrup
- Impediment to one’s freedom
- Nocturnal rodents
- Earthy pigment
- Relieved oneself
- Golf score
- Tech hub ___ Alto
- Sportscaster Andrews
- Records electric currents
- Popular Hitchcock film
- Revolutions per minute
- NY Giants legend
- Sports radio host Patrick
- When you hope to get somewhere
- French seaport

- Thai river
- Rocker’s accessory
- Extra charge
- Influential American president
- Pain in the head
- Great Plains people
- Consumed
- Soluble ribonucleic acid
- Improves
- Secret clique
- Behind the stern of a ship
- Dough made from corn flour
- Fallow deer
- Swiss river
- Grayish white
- Engrave
- College’s Blue Devils
- Midway between south and southeast

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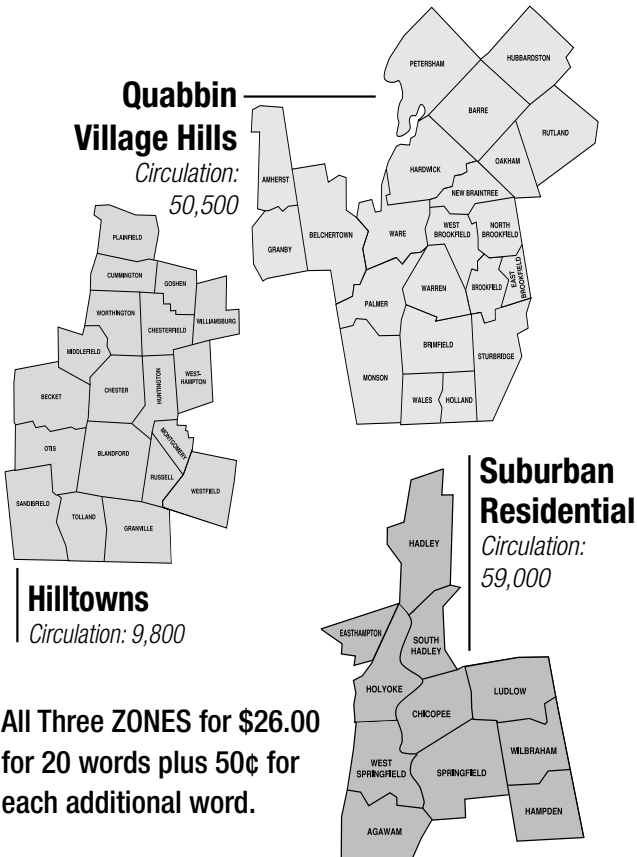
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PUBLIC NOTICES

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Hampden Probate and Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
Docket No. HD25P0883GD
In the matter of: Christine Dickerson
Of: Wilbraham, MA
RESPONDENT
Alleged Incapacitated Person
CITATION GIVING NOTICE OF PETITION FOR APPOINTMENT OF GUARDIAN FOR INCAPACITATED PERSON PURSUANT TO G.L. c. 190B, §5-304

To the named Respondent and all other interested persons, a petition has been filed by **Vantage at Wilbraham** of Wilbraham, MA in the above captioned matter alleging that **Christine Dickerson** is in need of a Guardian and requesting that **Kimberly Camp of Westfield, MA** (or some other suitable person) be appointed as Guardian to serve **Without Surety** on the bond.

The petition asks the court to determine that the Respondent is incapacitated, that the appointment of a Guardian is necessary, and that the proposed Guardian is appropriate. The petition is on file with this court and may contain a request for certain specific authority.

You have the right to object to this proceeding. If you wish to do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance at this court on or before 10:00 a.m. on the return date of **05/23/2025**.

This day is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline date by

which you have to file the written appearance if you object to the petition. If you fail to file the written appearance by the return date, action may be taken in this matter without further notice to you. In addition to filing the written appearance, you or your attorney must file a written affidavit stating the specific facts and grounds of your objection within 30 days after the return date.

IMPORTANT NOTICE
The outcome of this proceeding may limit or completely take away the above-named person's right to make decisions about personal affairs or financial affairs or both. The above-named person has the right to ask for a lawyer. Any one may make this request on behalf of the above-named person. If the above-named person cannot afford a lawyer, one may be appointed at State expense.

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

Date: April 25, 2025
Rosemary A. Saccomani
Register of Probate
05/08/2025

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Hampden Probate and Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
(413)748-7758
Docket No. HD25C0138CA
In the matter of:

Evelyn Rose Janas-Turowsky
CITATION ON PETITION TO CHANGE NAME
A Petition to Change Name

of **Minor** has been filed by **Evelyn Rose Janas-Turowsky of Wilbraham, MA** requesting that the court enter a Decree changing their name to:

Evelyn Rose Janas
IMPORTANT NOTICE
Any person may appear for purposes of objecting to the petition by filing an appearance at: **Hampden Probate and Family Court before 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 05/27/2025**.

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

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

Date: April 29, 2025
Rosemary A Saccomani
Register of Probate
05/08/2025

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Hampden Probate and Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
(413)748-7758
Docket No. HD25C0139CA
In the matter of:

Julian Joseph Janas-Turowsky
CITATION ON PETITION TO CHANGE NAME
A Petition to Change Name

of **Minor** has been filed by **Julian Joseph Janas-Turowsky of Wilbraham, MA** requesting that the court enter a Decree changing their name to:

Julian Joseph Janas
IMPORTANT NOTICE
Any person may appear for

purposes of objecting to the petition by filing an appearance at: **Hampden Probate and Family Court before 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 05/27/2025**.

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

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

Date: April 29, 2025
Rosemary A Saccomani
Register of Probate
05/08/2025

LEGAL NOTICE

This ad is pursuant to MA Gen. Law Ch.255, Sec. 39A as of May 9, 2025 the following motor vehicle will be for sale to satisfy a garage keepers lien:

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04/24, 05/01, 05/08/2025

NOTICE TO BIDDERS
REROOFING OF
GYMNASIUM
MEMORIAL SCHOOL
310 MAIN STREET
WILBRAHAM, MA 01095

The Wilbraham Select Board, the Awarding Authority, invites sealed bids for the replacement roof on the gymnasium of Memorial School, 310 Main Street, Wilbraham, MA 01095.

The work involves the removal and replacement of the shingle

roof on the gymnasium, including ice and water shield, underlayment, soffit and ridge vents, flashing, and replacement gutters. Add Alternate 1 includes repointing of bricks on the chimney. The cost estimate is \$100,000.

Bidder selection, procedures and contract awards shall be in conformity with M.G.L. Chapter 30 paragraph 39M. State mandated prevailing wage rates must be paid according to M.G.L. Chapter 149 sections 26-27H.

Digital copies of the drawings and specifications may be obtained by emailing requests to the office of Roy S. Brown Architects at 85rsba@gmail.com after Wednesday, May 8, 2025 after 2:00 pm. A contractor briefing on site is planned for Wednesday, May 15, 2025 at 10:00 am.

Questions pertaining to the general bid will be accepted until Friday, May 16, 2025. All questions are to be emailed to the office of Roy S. Brown Architects at 85rsba@gmail.com. All answers to questions pertaining to the general bid will be distributed to all planholders prior to Tuesday, May 20, 2025 at 2:00 pm.

General bids will be accepted from eligible bidders at the office of the Select Board, 240 Springfield Street, Wilbraham, Massachusetts 01095 until **2:00 pm May 22, 2025**, at which time they shall be publicly opened and read aloud. No bid security is required.

The Awarding Authority reserves the right to reject any or all bids, should it be deemed in the public interest to do so.

Samuel Boyd,
Director of Facilities
05/08/2025

TOWN OF HAMPDEN
CONSERVATION
COMMISSION
NOTICE OF
PUBLIC HEARING

In accordance with the provisions of the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act, (MGL CH 131, S 40), it's implementing regulations (310 CMP 10.00) and the Town of Hampden's Wetlands Protection Bylaws, the Hampden Conservation Commission will hold a public hearing on **Wednesday, May 21, 2025 at 6 PM** at the Town House, 625 Main Street, Hampden, on a Request for Determination of Applicability (RDA), submitted by the Town of Hampden Parks and Recreation department to add two permanent shade umbrellas inside of the Spray Park in previously disturbed areas. Additional information relating to this request is on file in the Conservation Commission office and available for review by the public by contacting the Commission. Anyone interested in or wishing to be heard on the request may appear at the time and place designated.

Hampden Conservation Commission
05/08/2025

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

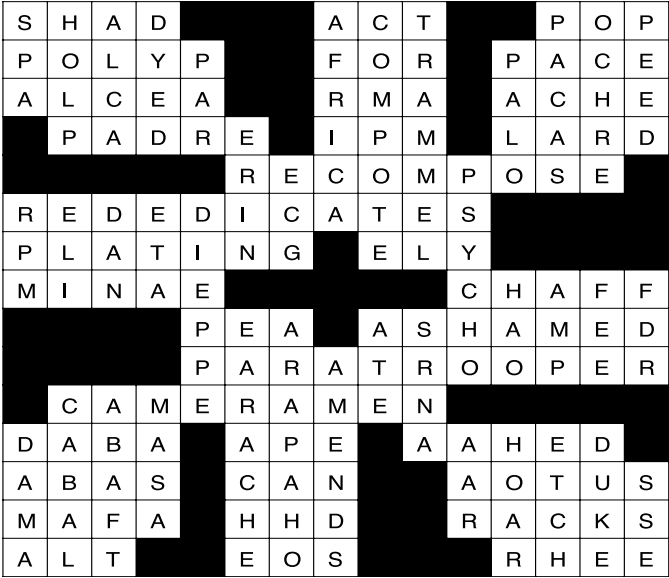
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Thursday, May 22

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Thursday, May 22

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HILL CLIMB from page1

DeMarey later succeeded Holman, his friend, as the event's chairman and oversees it today.

As a reminder, the following parking bans will be in place on event day from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Main Street between Tinkham Road and Wright Place, Springfield Street between Main Street and Ridley Street, Burt Lane, Crane Park Drive, Old Road, Hunting Lane, Pomeroy Street, Miles Morgan Court, Willow Brook Lane, Woodland Dell Road, Brookmont Drive between Main Street and Hilltop Drive, Mountain Road between Main Street and 509 Mountain Road, Ridge Road between Monson Road and 200 feet north on Ridge Road, Peak Road between Monson Road and 200 feet south on Peak Road, Monson Road between Main Street and Ridge Road, the north town lane of Main Street between Tinkham Road and Faculty Street and Monson Road between Main Street and Ridge Road.

DeMarey explained his goal with the Hill Climb “is to help small business and create a family-fun event,” noting how it’s grown every year and this year’s race contingent is the largest ever.

"We've got some Bugattis and Mercedes Benzes, Model A's and Bentleys, just a whole migrate of cars. Wayne Carini will be here again this year. Steve Magnante, he's a familiar voice from Barrett Jackson Auctions and Brad Phillips is coming up, he's another voice talent from down south. They'll be talking on the mic," DeMarev said. "We have a