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(L to R) Hampden Police Sgt. Michael Meaney, Chief Scott Trombly, Sgt. Michael Cooney, Sgt. Yvon, Officer Jeff Beattie and Officer Radcliffe Kenison display their autism awareness patches, as the cruiser "Lights it up Blue" for autism. (Photo courtesy of Radcliffe Kenison)

Hampden police wear patches to raise autism awareness

By Dalton Zbierski
Editor
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HAMPDEN – In April, members of the Hampden Police Department celebrated Autism Awareness Month by designing and wearing commemorative patches.

Those patches were made available by the Police Officers Association of Hampden and are on sale for \$10 at the police department, located at 100 Allen St.

The proceeds benefit the Dough Flutie, Jr. Foundation for Autism, which aims to help people and families affected by autism live life to the fullest by envisioning a world where people with autism "lead productive lives and are included, respect-

ed and actively engaged in their communities."

Police Chief Scott Trombly said that selling and wearing the patches is a "win-win" for the police department, the association and the foundation. He said the activity helps bring together officers and the community.

"It is a very big morale booster," he said. "We've got the mid-night shift working with the day shift working with the second shift. We've got new officers in the department, and we have community coming in purchasing the patches. There's a total involvement of bringing everyone in it one way or another."

Police Officer Radcliffe Kenison has two sons of his own who have autism and launched the charitable organization Radcliffe

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Plowing the Wilbraham Community Garden



Horses came from Connecticut to help plow the community garden last Saturday. (Photo courtesy of Melissa Graves)

By Dalton Zbierski
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WILBRAHAM – Outdoor enthusiasts from multiple states gathered on May 6 to plow and prepare the Wilbraham Community Garden on Monson Road.

The 13th annual event kicked off the gardening season and featured guests from the Eastern Connecticut Draft Horse Association, several other Draft Horse owners and local

vendors including Heart & Hustle, Stony Hill Farm, Little Oak Farm, King & Queen Spiritual Elements and others.

"The horses came and plowed the garden. We had local vendors and a food truck. We had a drone to take video. We had a good crowd that came and went. It was a really good day," said Community Garden Land Management Coordinator Melissa Graves, who organized the event.

More than 100 gardeners have plots in the community

garden. The plots are 25 feet by 50 feet; in the coming weeks, a team of volunteers will pound in over 100 fence posts to help everyone get situated.

A range of farmers use the community garden each year; some have been gardening there since 1975, Graves said. She noted that the gardeners come from beyond Wilbraham.

"It's awesome. There's no borders. I have people from Monson and Hampden and

Please see **GARDEN**, page 13

Library holds 'Clean Your Closets' Fund Drive

Proceeds support the library

By Kristin Rivers
Staff Writer
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WILBRAHAM - The Friends of the Library held a clothing and textile drive from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. on May 6 and from noon to 5 p.m. on May 7 to support the library.

Throughout the two days, residents dropped off donations of clothing, small household items, shoes, bedding and more in bags at the library's back entrance.

Additionally, residents learned about the Friends and received a coupon for two free books at the upcoming Annual Book Sale from June 7-10.

Jay Taylor is a board member

for the Friends and coordinated the collection efforts.

He explained, "the library gets money for every donated pound," with the donations dropped off at a Savers in West Springfield.

"It's a great way to raise money for programming for the library," Taylor said. "Our tax dollars cover the overhead of the library: the staff, facilities, maintenance, but a lot of the cost of programming is provided by the Friends of the Library."

Taylor said the event is in its third year, with the Friends being around since 1973.

He added doing an event like the drive is "very important to me."

"We're very devoted and do what we can to make it a community-wide resource. I have five grandchildren in the area who are avid users of young kids stuff, and they frequent the



(L to R) Daniel Heinold, Vinny and James Wadzinski pose for a group photo during a break in donation deliveries during the "Clean Your Closets" Fund Drive event at Wilbraham Public Library. (Staff photo by Kristin Rivers)

library," Taylor said. "It just has so much to offer that if we don't support it, we really lose a lot

that unites this community."

Tanja Olson is also a board member for the Friends and gave

out information to residents.

Olson has been in the group for 19 years and "always enjoyed working at the library."

"This library, I found, is extremely good about keeping up-to-date. They have all kinds of things that they do other than just books, and I find that it's a good place to give my time and also to do some fundraising for," Olson said.

Olson added the event is also "a good social time" to connect with residents and promote the library.

"It's really a good outlet for a town. The problem is, a lot of times, the town really doesn't know much about the library, so going into something like this where people are coming and you can tell them about some of the things is very important," Olson said.

Please see **CLOTHING**, page 4

Wilbraham Garden Club holds final board meeting of the year

Final preparations discussed for the Plant & Bake Sale

By Kristin Rivers
Staff Writer
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WILBRAHAM - The Wilbraham Garden Club held its final board meeting of the year at the library to finalize plans for its major fundraising event.

The April 26 meeting discussed the upcoming Garden Plant & Bake Sale scheduled for Saturday, May 13, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the library's Brooks Room.

The board members also discussed ideas and plans for upcoming events for the 2023-2024 year, hospitality and yearbook updates.

President Pat Serra is excited about the Plant & Bake Sale, as it will be held on Mother's Day weekend. She's about to complete her first year as club president and enjoys spending time with the members.

"For me, I love the club and being part of this group. They're wonderful, hard-working wom-

en and they really want to make the community beautiful," she said.

Serra added a person doesn't have to be a gardener to join.

"It's kind of a club where you don't have to be a gardener. You can just love gardening. You can love flowers and, also, you don't have to live in Wilbraham," she said.

Serra explained the club was at the W.H.O. Fest in March and found it "quite enlightening" because people had thought they had to live in town to be part of the group.

In reality, anyone can join.

"We have members that live in East Longmeadow, in Ludlow, in Palmer and in Monson. They're from all over, so unfortunately, the name kind of holds people back, but it is open to anyone in any community," she said.

Lisa Lafleur is the recording secretary and has been part of the club since 2015. Prior President Christine Scibelli got her involved and she's enjoyed it ever since.

Lafleur is happy to have events again, including the upcoming Plant & Bake Sale.

"It's nice to see everybody

and get together and, you know, get involved together in the community. Just, you know, do our little part to make the town look pretty," she said.

She said the club has many offerings to potential members, including opportunities to do side projects.

"It's just a fun group. It's not demanding," she said. "You learn a lot."

Lafleur also encourages the community to check out the Plant & Bake Sale.

"We'll have the same group of great bakers making their pies and their cakes, so if they want a tasty treat and go to the library at the same time, this is a good opportunity to come out and meet us and have some fun," she said.

Sandy Swain has done publicity for the club and enjoys how they work closely with the library.

"I think what people maybe don't realize is all we do with the library," she said. "With the wreaths in the winter at Christmastime and the gardens, we do the pots out in front."

Swain also appreciates how people step up to help, including for hospitality.

"Everybody is wonderful and



(L to R) Donna Hick, Norma Bandarra, Karen Feen, Helene Watkins, Sandra "Sandy" Swain, Pat Serra, Lisa LaFleur and Christine Scibelli at the Wilbraham Garden Club meeting at Wilbraham Public Library. (Staff photo by Kristin Rivers)

we've never had a problem with getting people to do things, like in the kitchen or anything. Everybody is willing to do everything, so that's good," she said.

Serra wants the community to know the Garden Club is here and open to new members.

"We are here and we do exist and we are always open to new

members and new ideas and, again, most of all, you do not have to be a gardener, which is, again, one of those things I feel is what holds some people back," she said.

To learn more, contact Serra at 413-279-1945 or Serra8446@hotmail.com.

Garden Club seeks donated plants

HAMPDEN - The Hampden Garden Club is looking for donated plants for their upcoming Memorial Day Plant Sale. They will dig those plants that need to be thinned out or need a new

home. Please contact Lil Fedora at 413-566-1137 or email her at Stonemeadowfarm@charter.net. Please call before May 20.

Candidates Night to take place at Wilbraham Middle School

WILBRAHAM - In partnership with student moderators from the Minnechaug Regional High School's Model Congress club, the Board of Trustees of the Wilbraham Public Library is pleased to announce a Candidates Night on Friday, May 19. The event will take place in the Wilbraham Middle School auditorium at 7 p.m. Viewing access via a streaming platform will also be provided and announced shortly.

Interested residents are encouraged to submit questions ahead of time by emailing the student panel at askthecan-

didates2023@gmail.com Attendees planning to submit written questions the evening of May 19 are asked to arrive before 6:45. Members of the Board of Trustees will not be involved in the receipt or review of questions.

Please frame questions around the specific office being sought instead of addressing an individual candidate. This year's contested positions are on the Board of Selectmen, the HWRSD School Committee, the Planning Board and the Cemetery Commission.

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Board of Selectmen prepare for upcoming Annual Town Meeting

Also, more town appointments

By Kristin Rivers
Staff Writer
krivers@turley.com

WILBRAHAM - The Board of Selectmen had preparations with Town Moderator Jim Jurgens on May 8 ahead of Annual Town Meeting.

The Annual Town Meeting takes place May 15 at 7 p.m. at Minnechaug Regional High School.

Carolyn Brennan was absent, with Theresa Goodrich leading the meeting.

Jurgens explained the first 15 town articles, or consent articles, go through a process where they are mentioned, with an opportunity to pull any of them for further discussion or questions.

He provided context to the voting process.

"Routinely, those 15 articles are voted on one motion, so that looks to be in order," Jurgens said. "Typical parliamentary procedures so if somebody were to increase a budget item, line item, they would need to have a funding source."

Articles 30 and 31 would be Zoning Bylaw amendments.

"Those will require a two-thirds vote, typical. On those, the people are going to want an explanation of what those are," Jurgens said.

The Board also received an update on the school district assessment from Town Administrator Nick Breault.

"The school, in fact, sent over their presentation today, so it's prepared, and Finance, I think, will have the recommendation with the chance to speak on that," Breault said.

Jurgens expects questions and further discussion on this topic, given the amount.

"It gets into that whole mesh of everything, and typically, that's the one where you may have the most questions on," Jurgens said.

Susan Bunnell was pleased with the school district and Finance Committee update.

"I'm just enormously grateful



(L to R) Wilbraham Board of Selectmen Clerk Susan Bunnell, Vice Chairman Theresa Goodrich, Town Moderator Jim Jurgens and Town Administrator Nick Breault discuss preparations ahead of next week's Annual Town Meeting. (Staff photo by Kristin Rivers)

that the parties came together and came to an agreement to amend this situation," Bunnell said.

Additionally, there were more town appointments and reappointments.

Police Chief Ed Lennon returned this week to discuss the appointment of a Special Police Officer, the first for the town.

Marc Paradis, a 32-year veteran of the police department who retired a year and a half ago, was presented as a candidate.

Lennon explained the role came about when the town voted to petition the state legislature after last year's Annual Town Meeting. The Special Act allows retired police officers under regular, non-disability retirement to be appointed as Special Police Officers.

He added the officer needs to be under 65-years-old and have their training requirements under good post-police officer standing.

"As long as they had all their training up to date, they could be appointed as a special police officer of the town for the purposes of filling police details in other functions as deemed necessary," Lennon said.

Goodrich asked about vetting candidates, with Lennon explaining

he would do the recommendations.

"If there's a bad fit or there's some reason, even if they were technically be legally able to, I would as a safety valve stop that from getting to the Board of Selectmen," Lennon said.

When Bunnell asked what the special details entail, Lennon provided clarification.

"It's going to be for police overtime details," Lennon said. "In an emergency situation, they could be activated to help us."

He added the special police officer will not be on the roads.

"There is no plan to put them on the road or supplement staffing or anything like that. It would be a purely all-hands-on-deck type of situation," Lennon said.

Paradis was unanimously approved.

Also, Breault received a reappointment to a new three-year term beginning July 1, 2023.

Breault expressed his thanks to the Board and town.

"It is a privilege to work here and to work with a great staff and for the residents here and the Board, so I really appreciate it and look forward to the next three years," Breault said.

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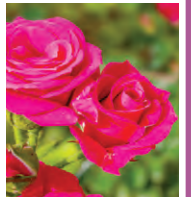
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Tanja Olson, board member for Wilbraham Friends of the Library, shows off the display table during the "Clean Your Closets!" Fund Drive event at Wilbraham Public Library.



Jean Heinold shows a received donation during the "Clean Your Closets" Fund Drive event at Wilbraham Public Library. She came with her son, Daniel, to volunteer with the Friends of the Library.



Event volunteers greet residents dropping off donations during the "Clean Your Closets" Fund Drive event at Wilbraham Public Library.

CLOTHING from page 1

Tom Wadzinski is the troop leader for Boy Scout Troop #359 at St. Cecelia's Parish. He came with troop members Daniel Heinold and James Wadzinski, his son, to volunteer.

"We heard about the need and sign-up sheets went out to the boys and different boys signed up for different times across the weekend," Wadzinski said.

Wadzinski said he wants the troop to learn about volunteerism, community service and "getting an appreciation for how communities work."

"I think the boys get a lot of it just being out and helping people out, so it's important for them to learn about and be a part of," Wadzinski said.



(L to R) James Wadzinski and Daniel Heinold assist a resident dropping off donations during the "Clean Your Closets" Fund Drive event at Wilbraham Public Library. The boys are also members of Boy Scout Troop #359 at St. Cecelia's Parish. (Staff photos by Kristin Rivers)

Susan Magee said the event is exciting "because you never know what you're going to get."

Magee has been with the group for over 20 years and hopes the community checks out the library more.

The library is in Crane Park Commons off Main Street.

"I don't think people

are aware of the library and how it isn't just books anymore. They even loan us a sewing machine, for instance. They have a program of unusual things that somebody might need and return, just like a book. They're doing more things than people realize," Magee said.

To learn more about the Friends, visit <http://wilbrahamlibrary.org/friends.asp>.

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Library shares plans for summer programming

By Kristin Rivers
Staff Writer
krivers@turley.com

HAMPDEN - The library is finalizing plans to kick off summer programming, including the Summer Reading program.

Young Adult Librarian Maxine Girard said summer events are currently in the works, with planning for events to fall on Saturdays and Thursdays during summer reading time.

The summer reading program will start with a fun event with food and therapy dogs.

"On June 24, we have our Summer Reading Kickoff with the Bright Spot Therapy Dogs and the ice cream truck and all the fun stuff," she said.

Girard said Summer Reading takes place throughout the summer and will wrap up for teens on Aug. 3, with a Teen Summer Reading Party planned for Aug. 5.

"Within that time frame, we'll have something fun going on on Saturdays and Thursdays, just something to do when they're home during the summer," she said.

Girard loves doing summer events, particularly the summer reading offerings.

"I think summer reading is a really fun time because it's an opportunity for kids to read without the pressure or expectation of school. They don't have to do reading logs or having assigned books," she said. "This really is an opportunity for them to pick what they

like, what they're interested in, whether it's a novel, a graphic novel, manga or audiobooks. There's such a wide variety and there are so many awesome books to read."

She added having fun summer events is also enjoyable.

"Seeing everybody interact with each other during the summer and just hearing what they've been up to, it's always fun," she said.

Reflecting on past summer events, Girard shared what the library has done before, explaining, "We have a couple that really stand out."

"A couple of years ago we did Gingerbread in July, so we made our own little gingerbread houses. Last year, our 'foodish' activity was candy sushi and that was a lot of fun. A couple of the participants actually made real sushi," she said. "Those were a couple of the really fun ones."

Spring events, meanwhile, are active, including the new Anime and Manga Club launched in April and other programs.

"We're hoping to continue that programming and build a core group of participants who really enjoy it," she said.

Girard encouraged the community to stop by during the summer to participate in events and read books.

"We have so much programming for kids, teens. The adults have their own thing going on," she said. "It's just always nice to have a core group of people coming in and just building that sense of community in the library."

Monson Road Hill Climb Event

Parking Restrictions and Road Closures

(Courtesy of the Wilbraham Police Department)

WILBRAHAM – On Saturday, May 13, between 7:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m., a parking ban will be in effect on the following streets due to the Monson Road Hill Climb event. Vehicles parked while attending the town-wide tag sale may temporarily park on these streets but tag sale parking will be limited to 20 minutes:

1. Main Street Between Tinkham Road and Faculty Street
2. Springfield Street Between Main Street and Ripley Street
3. Burt Lane
4. Crane Park Drive
5. Bolles Road
6. Pomeroy Street
7. Hunting Lane

8. Miles Morgan Court
9. Willowbrook Lane
10. Woodland Dell Road
11. Brookmont Drive between Main Street and Hilltop Drive
12. Mountain Road between Main Street and 509 Mountain Road
13. Ridge Road Between Monson Road and 200 feet north on Ridge Road
14. Peak Road Between Monson Road and 200 feet south on Peak Road

Road Closures

On May 13, between 7 a.m. and 3:30 p.m., the northbound lane of Main Street between Tinkham Road and Burt Lane will be closed. The southbound lane of Main Street will remain completely open at all times.

On May 13 between 7 a.m. and 3 p.m. Monson Road will be closed to all traffic between Main Street and Ridge Road.

Healing Touch Spiritual Practices at Federated Community Church

HAMPDEN – Healing Touch Spiritual Practices will be offered on Wednesday evenings from 7-8 p.m. at Federated Community Church, 590 Main St. in Hampden. First come, first served. Donations are accepted. Come and experience intentional prayer so that the spirit of healing may flow freely through your body. Please enter through the door in the back of the church – the group will meet on the second floor.

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VIEWPOINTS

Letters to the Editor

Attention Wilbraham Homeowners

The Town of Wilbraham has by-laws, which were prudently crafted to protect both owners' rights and the residential character of our Town. Two articles (30 and 31) seek to change those bylaws by allowing for what would change neighborhoods entirely.

Imagine if several properties on your street have what these changes allow...transformed into Boston Road. This will happen, folks. Whoever wants these odious changes will pack Town Meeting and get them. Your home's value will be enormously diminished forever.

Please get to Town Meeting 7 p.m., May 15 at Minnechaug to vote AGAINST Articles 30 and 31 and FOR your property values.

Marjorie Pessolano,
Wilbraham

Thank you to first responders

A SINCERE THANK YOU to Tyrone James Osoimalo and Daniel P. Fagan for calling 911 to report my body lying on Main St, near Whitford Place and Officer Jack Alberici for responding and calling for the Fire Department ambulance, driven by EMT Patrick Farrow with EMT Andy Nothe, who attended me in the rear.

Thank you Officer Jack Alberici for bringing my bike back to my house. I don't know how you knew where I lived. I was glad to find that you are Jim Alberici's grandson after thanking you in person last week, three weeks later.

I wouldn't know any of this information without asking for a police report because I don't even remember falling off my bike and only remember being in the emergency ward of Bay State Medical Hospital.

We are fortunate to have concerned people and competent and caring public safety professionals.

-Don Flannery,
Wilbraham



One of Congress's most important jobs has gotten much harder

In the pantheon of writings about Congress, California Rep. Katie Porter's new book will almost certainly draw attention for her unvarnished takes on the institution and her colleagues. In "I Swear: Politics is Messier Than My Minivan," Porter finds plenty of targets, including her fellow House members, staffers, lobbyists – and how a seat in Congress is increasingly out of reach for ordinary Americans.

"Congress is full of multimillionaires for the same reason that the NBA is full of tall people," Porter – a single working mother – writes.

"It's easier to get recruited and win with such advantages."

That's all good fodder for commentary, but the line that really drew my attention is one that probably won't get much notice. "As I see it," she writes, "the real work of Congress is civic education."

I agree.

Nowhere in the Constitution does it say that the job of members of Congress is to educate their constituents, colleagues or Americans as a whole, but the plain truth is that they can't be effective as representatives or as politicians on Capitol Hill unless they do. Serving as trustworthy sources of facts and analysis ought to be a key part of every legislator's responsibilities, both in their chambers and at home.

There are any number of reasons for this. The issues Congress deals with are often complicated and full of nuance, but even on some of the most basic facts, there's widespread misunderstanding. No, foreign aid is not a significant part of the U.S. budget; it's less than 1%.

No, undocumented immigrants aren't disproportionately responsible for crimes, compared to native-born Americans. No, China doesn't own more than half of U.S. debt; in fact, the largest foreign holder of the debt, at least as of late last year,

was Japan, but even it pales in comparison to the almost 22% of that debt held by the federal government itself (Social Security is a big player) and the 20% by the Federal Reserve system.

My point here is not to bombard you with facts, but to say that they matter when policy is being formulated. That's especially true in Congress, where the starting point for reaching some sort of compromise on any given issue is being able to agree on a common set of facts. To build consensus, you have to clear misperceptions out of the way – in such a politically diverse body it's hard enough to hammer out an agreement when everyone agrees on the basics, but it's impossible when the players can't even find common ground on the facts.

This holds equally true when members of Congress and political candidates try to explain their positions or build support for them with the public. Voters are inundated with "information" – some of it reliable, much of it not. Our system asks them to sort through it and arrive at conclusions about what's best for their communities and the country as a whole. Legislators have access to a broad array of trustworthy information and analysis, and in an ideal world would play a key part in helping ordinary Americans work through and understand the issues in front of them.

But, of course, we don't live in an ideal world. Lots of powerful groups – some legitimate, some malign – seek to manipulate public opinion and they're very good at it. Even worse, some members of Congress and of state legislatures in recent years have shown themselves less interested in purveying facts than politically convenient misinformation. For politicians who are dedicated to communicating the facts and what they mean for policy, the sheer cacophony of misleading information and trolling by their colleagues makes things much more difficult.

This does not mean, however, that they should just throw up their hands. In the end, representative democracy is a dialogue between citizens seeking to make good judgments and elected officials determined to help them do so.

Politicians who are devoted to understanding the facts that underlie complex issues and then to explaining them to the public perform a vital service in our democracy. Those are ones who deserve our respect and support.

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

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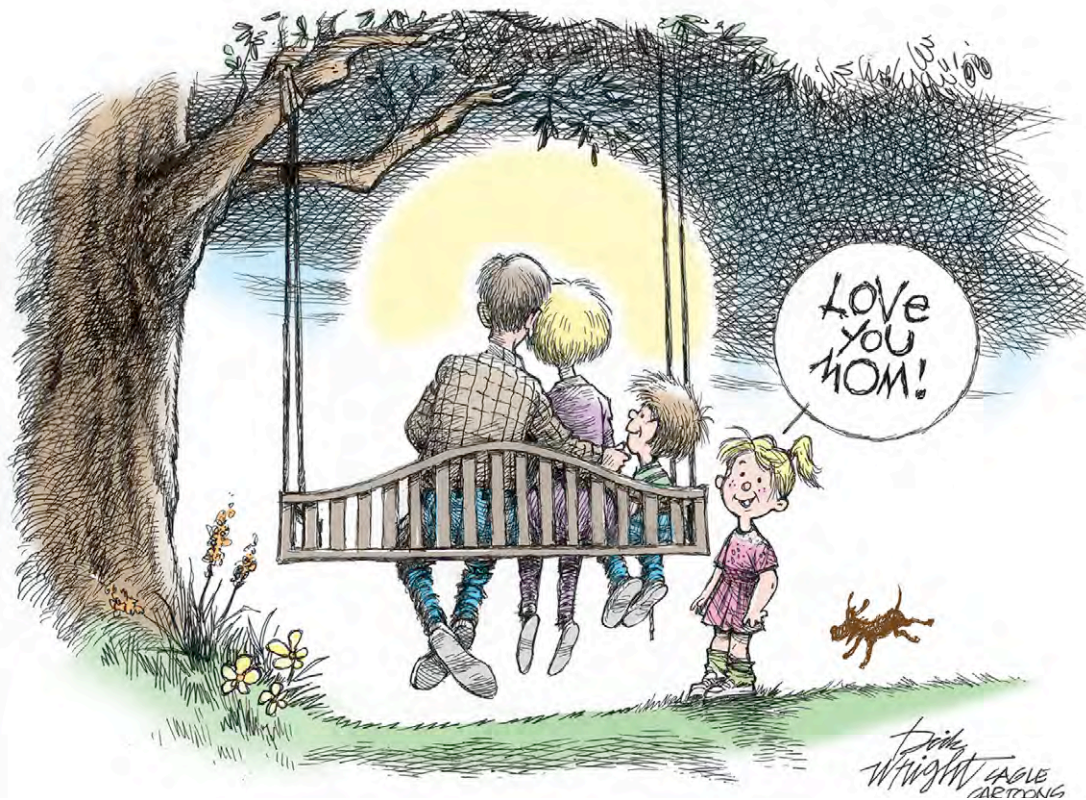
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The TIMES will gladly correct factual errors that appear in this paper and can be substantiated. Corrections or clarifications will always appear on the editorial pages. To request a correction, send information in an e-mail or mailed communication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

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Hampden residents vote on 26 warrant articles



Residents raised cards to approve warrant articles during the May 8 Annual Town Meeting.



Moderator Rick Green speaks as the Selectmen look on during the May 8 Annual Town Meeting.



Over 100 people filled the TWB cafeteria for the Annual Town Meeting.

By Dalton Zbierski
Editor
dzbierski@turley.com

HAMPDEN – A group of more than 100 residents voted on 26 warrant articles during Hampden’s Annual Town Meeting at Thornton W. Burgess School on May 8.

Over the course of three hours, much was discussed, as residents weighed the pros and cons of approving or denying potential expenditures.

To begin the meeting, Library Trustee Chair Beth Burger was recognized for her 36-year tenure on the board, as she prepares to move on to new endeavors.

After Article 1, focused on the Annual Town Reports, passed, voters set their sights on the Annual Operating Budget, which Advisory Committee Co-Chair Carol Fitzgerald said amounts to approximately \$15.8 million, a 4.5% increase from last year. Article 2 passed.

The Advisory Committee recommended no action on Article 3, pertaining to the town reports, as there are no prior year unpaid bills. The voters followed the board’s recommendation.

Residents voted in favor of Article 4, which addressed Fiscal 2024 spending limits for revolving funds.

The approved total expenditure for the Building Department fund is \$85,000, the Cemetery Commission Fund is \$30,000, the Council on Aging Fund is \$21,000, the Library Fund is \$3,000, the Conservation Commission Fund is \$25,000, the Planning Board Fund is \$10,000 and the Board of Health Fund is \$20,000.

Residents approved Article 5, pertaining to an enterprise fund for the transfer station. Approximately \$34,740 will be spent on salaries and \$64,000 will be spent on trash hauling.

After a long discussion, both parts of Article 6 passed. The town will appropriate \$63,000 from the Community Preservation Fund for the purchase of a 13.7-acre parcel at 0 Walnut Road for conservation purposes.

The town will also appropriate \$45,000 from the Community Preservation Fund for the purchase of adaptive playground equipment at the Green Meadow School by the Hampden- Wilbraham Regional School District.

Article 7 passed, enabling the town to raise \$1,000 for the Conservation Fund to acquire land available to Hampden for conservation purposes.

Article 8 passed, providing financial aid to the Highway Department. For Fiscal 2024, the Massachusetts Department of Transportation has announced that Hampden will receive \$251,969 for a road improvement project.

Residents voted to pass Article 9, providing the library with additional aid from the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners.

By voting in favor of Article 10, residents approved an expenditure of \$3,200 for the Minnechaug Land Trust to grind stumps that remained after the removal of dead and dying trees at the South Road entrance to the Minnechaug Mountain Conservation Land.

Article 11 passed, meaning that the fire department will receive funding to renovate a 2002 International fire truck, Engine #2. A cost estimate is not yet available.

Article 12 passed, allowing the town to raise money to maintain its 12 defibrillators. The fire department has five of them, the police department also has five, Town Hall has one and the senior center has one.

By passing Article 13, residents approved a local match for a grant for a fire department forestry truck. The fire department was notified by FEMA last September that it was awarded with an Assistance to Firefighters Grant amounting to \$219,047.

The town must match \$10,952 to replace its current 1953 M37 forestry truck. The new vehicle will be a



Staff photos by Dalton Zbierski

Moderator Rick Green speaks on May 8 at TWB.



Connie Witt asks a question during Monday's Annual Town Meeting.

Ford F-540 that will be built with bigger tires and will sit higher off the ground than the current vehicle.

Article 14 passed, granting the Highway Department the ability to replace its T9 1993 Mack dump truck. The normal useful life of a large dump truck is 20 years, and the T9 is 30-years-old with 117,000 miles on the odometer.

The town expects to auction off the aging T9 for between \$12,000 and \$15,000.

Article 15 requested approximately \$57,500 to help update the town’s master plan, which hasn’t been updated since 1982. After a long discussion, the item was defeated.

Article 16, a citizen’s petition regarding ambulance transport services, was defeated.

No action was taken on Article 17, which requested that the town treasurer borrow a sum of money to continue the program to build a town wide fiber optic system.

No action was also taken on Article 18, regarding borrowing or transferring from unappropriated funds a sum of money to fund the design of an expansion to the Hampden Senior Center.

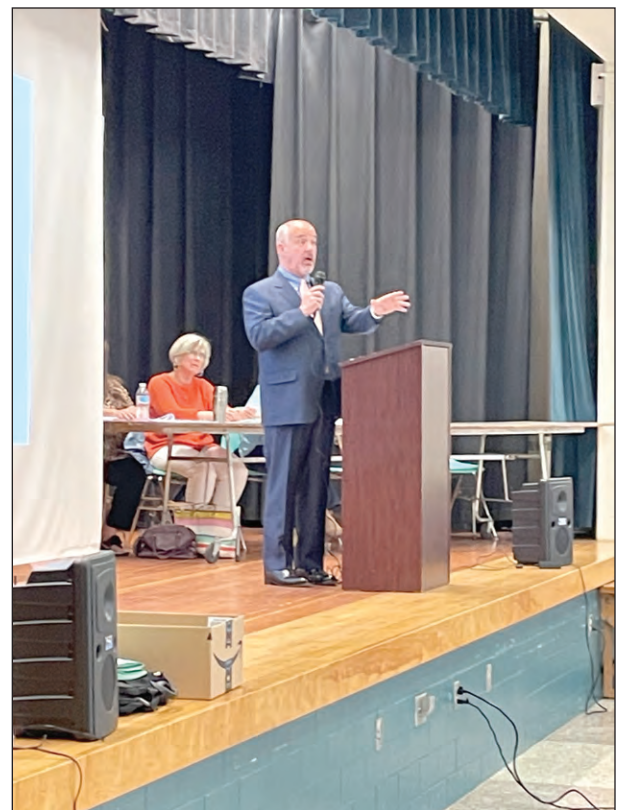
Article 19, pertaining to an amendment to the Hampden Zoning Code, passed by a two-thirds vote.

Article 20 passed, allowing the town to enter into an easement agreement with National Grid at town-owned land located at Cross Road.

Article 21 passed, allowing the town to invest \$10,000 into its planning for Hampden’s 150th anniversary in 2028. The celebration will occur over four years, and it is expected that more funding will be requested at future town meetings.

Residents voted to pass Article 22, enabling the Hampden Assessors to fund property revaluation and other expenses resulting from Massachusetts Department of Revenue mandates.

Article 23 passed, allowing the town to pay retroactively to fund the School Resource Officer for Fiscal 2023 at Minnechaug Regional High School.



Advisory Committee co-Chair Dough Boyd speaks on May 8.

Article 24 also passed, providing \$25,000 to the Reserve Fund, which is used to cover extraordinary or unforeseen departmental expenses.

Article 25 passed, transferring money to the General Stabilization Fund, which sits north of \$2 million.

Lastly, no action was taken on Article 26, which asked to reduce the tax rate.

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Come see 'Majesty and Mystery of Crop Circles' at Academy Hall

HAMPDEN – On May 18 at 7 p.m., the Hampden Garden Club will present guest speaker John Root, who will be doing a PowerPoint presentation on the "Majesty and Mystery of Crop Circles". The presentation will feature designs that have been appearing with increasing sophistication during the past three

decades in farmers' fields and other locations all over the world. The guest fee costs \$5. Any questions can be directed to Lil Fedora at 413-566-1137. The Garden Club is celebrating 91 years of existence.

Minnechaug Land Trust to host Volunteer Day, May 13

HAMPDEN – The Minnechaug Land Trust is planning a volunteer maintenance day on Saturday, May 13 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Come join us to spruce up the South Road entrance of Minnechaug Mountain!

The Land Trust recently completed a land management project at the South Road parking lot to clear invasive poplars that have grown extensively around the beautiful old stone wall at the entrance. The land management project will keep the parking lot safe and clear, and help maintain the adjacent grassy meadow for wildlife viewing, birding and native turtles. We hope to continue updates to the entrance by painting the bench and kiosk at the trailhead and creating simple bog bridges over wet areas of the trail from the parking lot to the woods.

The Land Trust is looking for volunteers to paint the bench and kiosk at the park entrance. We are also in need of volunteers who are able to help assem-

ble simple bog bridges over wet areas of the trail that begins at the parking lot.

The group will meet at the South Road entrance of Minnechaug Mountain; located roughly 0.5 miles from Main Street, Hampden. The parking lot is located on the right-hand side of South Road. Volunteers are welcome to meet up with us anytime between 10-1. A digital copy of the trail map can be found on our website, www.minnechauglandtrust.org.

Sturdy shoes, clothes that can get dirty, gloves, water, bug spray and a backpack are recommended, other tools will be provided. Questions about volunteering can be sent to jenn.bagge@gmail.com.

Volunteer trail days are a fantastic way to get outside and give back within the community. Without you, our lovely trail systems, serene woodlands, and iconic views would not exist. Thank you for your support.

Ashe and colleagues pass FY24 House budget

BOSTON – State Rep. Ashe (D-Longmeadow) and his colleagues in the Massachusetts House of Representatives passed the Fiscal Year 2024 budget. This budget responds to the needs of residents and makes targeted investments that provide support for families across the Commonwealth. Included in the \$56.2 billion budget is permanent funding for universal school meals, free community college for qualifying residents, and investments in child care funded by the authorization of online purchasing options for the state lottery.

"This is a historic budget that will positively affect the Commonwealth for years to come," Ashe said in a statement. "The programs, opportunities, and organizations funded by this budget, like universal free school lunches and free community college, will allow the Commonwealth to continue being at the forefront of science, technology, healthcare, and education."

Ashe was able to secure funding for numerous organizations within the 2nd Hampden district. The East Longmead-

ow Pleasant View Senior Center secured funding for a new transportation van, while the Zoo in Forest Park will be receiving funding to continue its educational work for children and adults alike along with covering the costs of animal care. Both the Springfield Symphony Orchestra and the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame received funding as well, allowing them both to lead the way in revitalizing the community of downtown Springfield. The East Longmeadow American Legion Post #293 will be receiving funding for critical repairs to the site, allowing our veterans to continue having a space filled with community and camaraderie. Rachel's Table will receive funding to continue their mission of providing food to those in need, while Westfield State University will receive funding for an early college program for nursing and health science pathways.

More information on the budget and funding throughout the Commonwealth can be found on the Massachusetts Legislature's website.

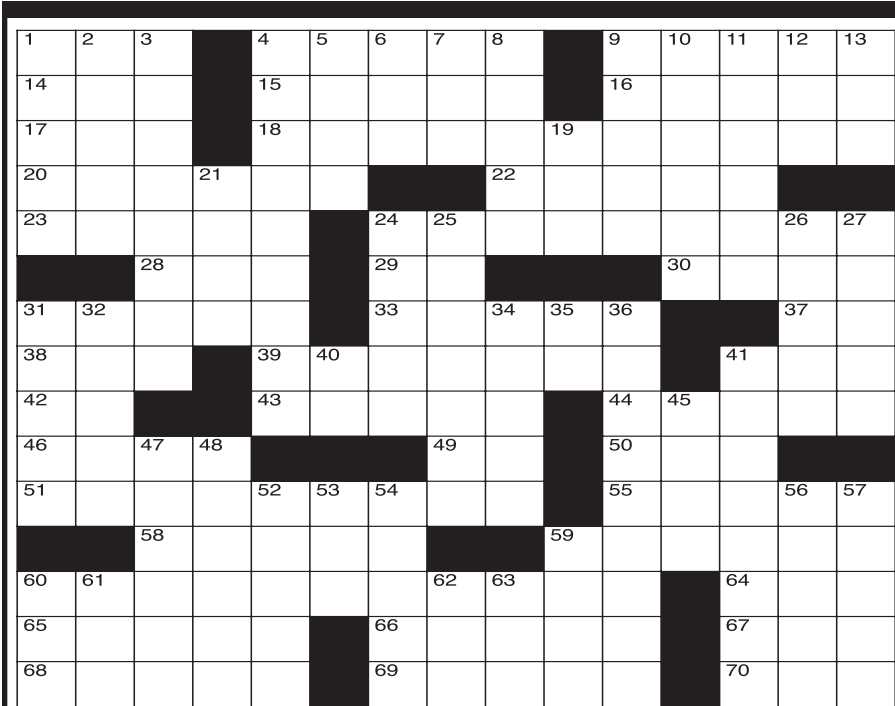
Ludlow Elks Lodge sponsors 'Senior Prom' Dinner-Dance for adults

LUDLOW – The Ludlow Elks Lodge at 69 Chapin Street in Ludlow is sponsoring an adult "Senior Prom" dinner-dance on June 16. All ages are welcome and attendees are encouraged to "dress to impress". The doors will open at 5:30 p.m. with a social hour until 6:30 p.m. The beverage bar is cash only with an ATM in the building. The all-you-can-eat buffet dinner will be served from 6:30-7:30 p.m. and will feature delicious roast beef, chicken & broccoli alfredo, fish fillet, rice, vegetable, salad, rolls, coffee and tea.

From 7:30-10:30 p.m. the famous five-piece band COVER-2-COVER will be playing all of your dance favorites from the 60's, 70's, and 80's. Ask the band to play your favorite prom song from your graduating class! Dress to impress with that poodle skirt or prom gown, but don't forget those dancing shoes! Tickets are offered for singles, couples or you can buy an entire table of eight seats! A table purchase is a great idea for local compa-

nies to recognize their employees! Call your friends and reserve an entire table for your graduation class! This truly will be a night to remember! Some of you may be lucky enough to have the same prom date for this event that you had for your senior prom! Don't miss this evening of dining, dancing and reminiscing back to the fun of your senior class!

Tickets are on sale from May 1 to June 1 by calling 413-596-6890. Ticket pricing is \$25 for a single, \$50 for a couple, or \$200 for an eight-seat table. Tickets are also available from the Elks Lodge Member Hall if you are a member or know of one. Credit Cards, cash or checks are accepted for ticket purchases. You must have a valid email address to purchase tickets as the tickets will be sent to your email address only and will not be mailed. Tickets may also be ordered to be picked up at the "will call" desk upon your arrival at the event. Tickets will not be sold at the door.



CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Midway between south and southeast
- 4. Fathers
- 9. Wine grape
- 14. Al Bundy's wife
- 15. Organic compound
- 16. Venezuelan state
- 17. Interest term
- 18. Experts
- 20. Central cores of stems
- 22. Smooth and glossy
- 23. One-time S. Korean city
- 24. One from Damascus
- 28. Short message at the end of an email
- 29. It cools your home
- 30. Oh, God!
- 31. Intestinal pouches
- 33. Men
- 37. Popular English soccer team (abbr.)
- 38. Former CIA
- 39. Arrange in steps
- 41. A baglike structure in a plant or animal
- 42. The Great Lake State
- 43. Dog ___: to mark a page
- 44. Stop moving
- 46. Ancient Dead Sea region
- 49. Of I
- 50. Clerical vestment
- 51. Songs sung to a lover
- 55. Charges
- 58. Popular design program
- 59. Where to park a boat
- 60. One who values reason
- 64. Slang for cigarette
- 65. Sailboats
- 66. Actress Zellweger
- 67. Screen material
- 68. Country music legend Haggard
- 69. Puts together in time
- 70. When you hope to arrive

CLUES DOWN

- 1. An involuntary and abnormal muscular contraction
- 2. Philly's rail service
- 3. Leaves a place
- 4. No longer be a part in
- 5. Guitar players use them
- 6. Cease to exist
- 7. General's assistant (abbr.)
- 8. Shaking of the earth
- 9. Strong winds
- 10. For each one
- 11. A bog
- 12. The creation of beautiful or significant things
- 13. Affirmative
- 19. Pie ___ mode
- 21. Nonclerical
- 24. Inspirational football player Hamlin
- 25. Learning environment
- 26. Khoikhoi peoples
- 27. Bring out or develop
- 31. Shows up
- 32. Theatrical device
- 34. Loads
- 35. Popular Hollywood alien
- 36. Distinguishes
- 40. College dorm worker
- 41. Secondary or explanatory title
- 45. Resembling wings
- 47. One who delivers a speech
- 48. In the middle
- 52. Loop with a running knot
- 53. Airborne (abbr.)
- 54. Beloveds
- 56. Ordain
- 57. Breed of small cattle
- 59. Very small period of time (abbr.)
- 60. Revolutions per minute
- 61. They ___
- 62. Longtime ESPN anchor Bob
- 63. A place to stay

AUTISM from page 1

is the Reason and Arthur Too! Fight for Autism to raise awareness. He is thrilled that the his department made the effort to raise autism awareness and chose to donate to Flutie's foundation.

"Mental health is very important today, especially in the law enforcement field. We're out there to help out and spread the awareness," Kenison said. "It hits home for me, but I think it does for everyone because you'll get calls where you'll go to homes where there are individuals struggling with autism. We're getting better training for it, and this is also spreading awareness for the public to be aware of what autism is like."

Police Association President William Jacques, a Hampden police officer, said the autism patch is the third patch designed and worn by department members over the past seven months.

Last October, the association sold breast cancer awareness patches, donating proceeds to Rays of Hope, a Springfield-based foundation that raises money for breast cancer research and helps individuals in their fights against cancer.

In March, department members wore St. Patrick's Day-themed patches, and local business owner Keith Isham delivered them to different establishments in

Ireland.

Jacques credits new Police Officer Sean Auclair, formerly of the Ludlow Police Department, for inspiring the patch fundraisers. Auclair noted that numerous local departments were holding similar patch fundraisers and thought it would be valuable for Hampden to participate in a drive of its own.

Jacques credits Trombly for allowing the officers to wear the patches during each fundraiser and discussed how the initiative helps unite community members.

"A lot of people purchase the patches just to have now in their personal collection," he said. "It gets you talking to everyone in the community, and sometimes it's not just about police stuff. (Residents) get to know you as a person, and it's pretty rewarding when they come up and (ask about the patch). People will approach you a lot easier I think."

Jacques said that the department hopes to bring new patches into the fold soon, and Trombly has given the association his support. Jacques anticipates that the next patch could support fallen military heroes.

"Whatever other patches we can come up with, I think we're going to try to pass them and get them approved to wear and sell," he said.

Flowers, flowers, flowers, smiles, smiles, smiles and then more of both! That's exactly what we got from everyone involved! With flowers galore, in mid-April we traveled to the Hampshire Mall and the Holyoke Mall to do Random Acts of Kindness. We gave many unsuspecting shoppers a beautiful flower for no other reason than to just improve their day!

We put smiles on approximately 700 faces of flower recipients, however, the good feelings and smiles that this produced went way beyond these people. Various florists that donated all these flowers for the residents at Keystone Commons in Ludlow to do this fun Random Acts of Kindness day were so happy and excited about this idea that they were extremely generous with their donations. The observers of us doing these gestures also had huge smiles on their faces and the residents giving out the flowers, well their faces glowed with permanent smiles as they greeted the shoppers and gave them a flower. What happiness this produced for everyone!

Some shoppers thought we were selling the flowers and then their faces lit up as we explained our reason for doing this, just to make their day a better one. Others tried to give us money as a donation, which of course we refused; we were doing this as our way of giving back to the community and doing Random Acts of Kindness.

One recipient shared it was her birthday, another receiving a yellow flower told us it was her grandmother's favorite color so we gave her two so she could pass one along to grandma and another even had tears in her eyes when handed the flower. We just never know what an-

Random Acts of Kindness

By Barb Turcotte

other is going through and for us; it was sheer joy to make their day a better one by giving them a gorgeous fresh flower.

Through the incredible contributions of the following florists, we were able to be successful in our vision of the day! Participants were: Floral Concepts by Tom in Agawam; in Chicopee was Golden Blossom Flowers and McClelland's Florist; Mark Henry Florist in Indian Orchard, Kinderhook Flowers in Hampden also helped along with Heavenly Inspirations and Randall's Farm Greenhouse, both in Ludlow; Wilbraham Florist in Wilbraham and Durocher Florist in West Springfield were also among the donors. Over 700 thank you's to you for your amazing generosity!

We wanted to make sure every recipient knew who the businesses were that participated so made a small spread sheet listing each florist's name, address with their phone number and attached one to each flower! Now this certainly would have been a daunting task to take on myself so incorporated some wonderful friends of mine for their help with this project. Guess what?? More smiles! One of the florists had over ordered Easter Lilly's so offered them to me which in turn I offered to each friend who had helped

me tag the 700 flowers! It was definitely a win-win, fun kind of day!

When I explained our desire of putting smiles on people's faces one florist shared with me that one of her own customers had done just that! She was a regular customer who weekly bought a bouquet of flowers for a relative and on a particular day asked for additional bouquets explaining her plan was to randomly give them out to people to brighten their day. How cool is that! Kindness really starts with each of us, so let the thoughtfulness start with each of you!

Beyond just being a beautiful addition to someone's surroundings and improving their mood, did you know that there are proven facts that flowers are beneficial to one's health? Here's just a few that I found interesting. They can reduce stress, help you focus, increase your energy, may help you physically heal, can aid in relax-

ation and also can increase creativity, innovation as well as productivity. Here's a great one too, they can improve your relationship and bolster your sex appeal! And one additional fact we can boast that we found to be true is that men love receiving flowers too!

So next time you want to improve your own or someone else's day, consider doing it with flowers and supporting one of the above mentioned florists as they supported us. You'll know you're at the right florist when you see a beautiful window cling-on designed by Turley Publications saying they are a 'Random Acts of Kindness Business.' Thank you to everyone who helped make this such a memorable day for so many! Kindness really does make a difference!

If you would like to tell me a story about a Random Act of Kindness please contact me at bdt514@aol.com or 413-788-7514. You don't need one, but if you'd like to have a predesigned flyer to include with your next gesture, let me know. It's a way to keep the memory alive long after the gesture is done. Who knows, you might see your story in this column, 'Just 'Cause' you witnessed, did or received something nice being done. See you next month with another Random Act of Kindness!

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A COMMUNITY GALLERY



The Hampden Police Department donated a new tree to replace a tree that was damaged. Officer William Jacques, the School Resource Officer for Green Meadows School in Hampden, is pictured in this photo planting the new tree in the Memorial Garden at Green Meadows School. Thank you, HPD! (Photo and caption courtesy of Principal Sharon Moberg)



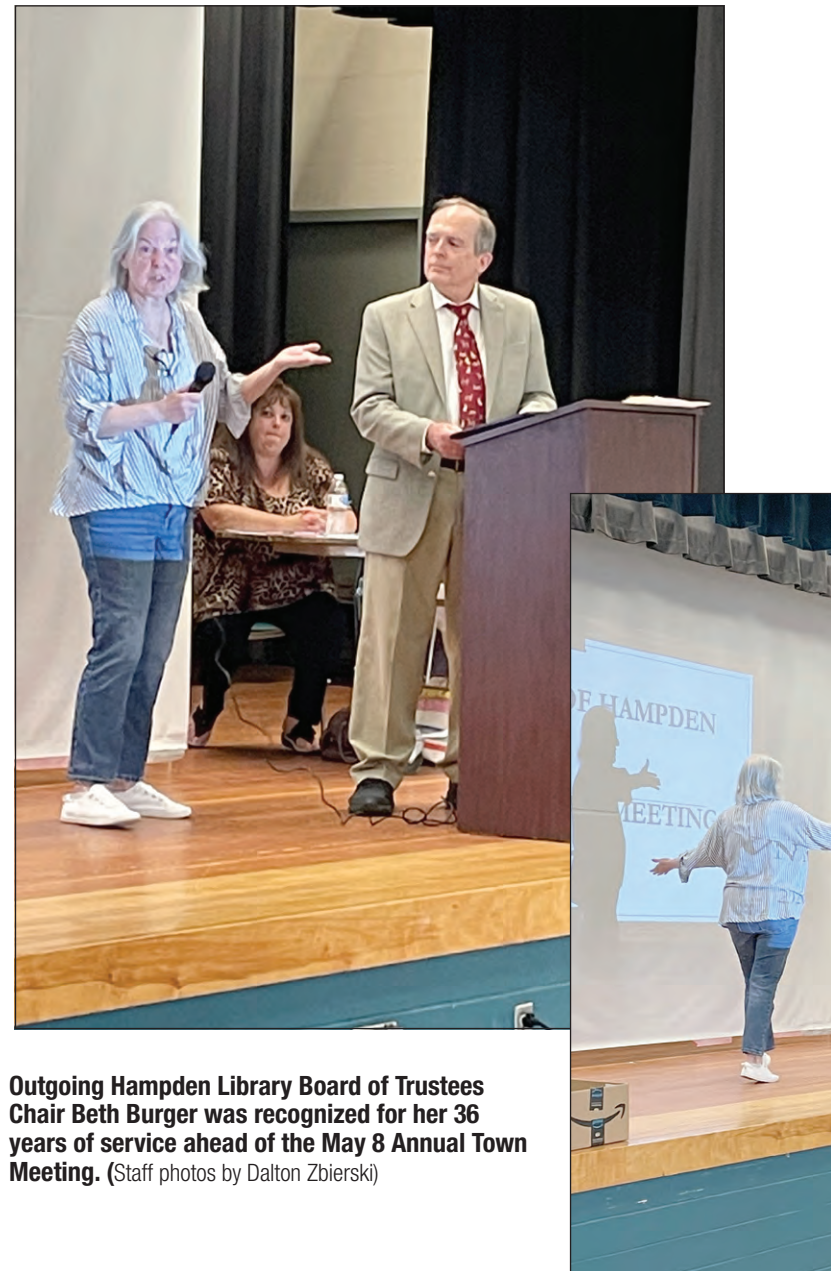
In 2022 and 2023, the Wilbraham-Hampden Times has partnered with Minnechaug Regional High School mentorship program. Pictured are past interns Seth Chaffee and Quinn Suomala with editor Dalton Zbierski. Thank you interns for your hard work! (Photos courtesy of Renee Considine, Minnechaug)



Life in & WILBRAHAM HAMPDEN

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

Michael Dane of Wilbraham recently found this artifact while tiling the garden.



Outgoing Hampden Library Board of Trustees Chair Beth Burger was recognized for her 36 years of service ahead of the May 8 Annual Town Meeting. (Staff photos by Dalton Zbierski)

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WILBRAHAM HAMPDEN



Community Bulletin Board

**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 dzberski@turley.com**



Last month, members of the Hampden Fire Department took their training outdoors. (Photos courtesy of the Hampden Fire Department)

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'It's a Spring Art Thing'



(L to R) Marie and Brian McQuillan share a display of unique metal art creations at the "It's a Spring Art Thing!" art show at the Hampden Senior Center. Brian McQuillan is the artist.



Joe St. John shows off his pottery during the "It's a Spring Art Thing!" art show at the Hampden Senior Center.



Charlann Griswold shows wine-inspired handcrafted jewelry during the "It's a Spring Art Thing!" art show at the Hampden Senior Center. The collection is part of a new venture called Tangled Vine Finely Crafted Jewelry.



A collection of art pieces on display during the "It's a Spring Art Thing!" art show at the Hampden Senior Center. (Staff photos by Kristin Rivers)



Frog house and fairy house creations and other pottery art by Potter Laura Salerno were on display for residents during the "It's a Spring Art Thing!" art show at the Hampden Senior Center.



A pair of oil on glass and oil on panel paintings on display during the "It's a Spring Art Thing!" art show at the Hampden Senior Center.

Hampden senior center holds spring art show

By Kristin Rivers
Staff Writer
krivers@turley.com

HAMPDEN - The Scantic River Artisans returned to the senior center's community room on May 6 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and May 7 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. for a spring art show.

The show was called "It's a Spring Art Thing!"

During the show, residents viewed and purchased art including watercolors, photography, sculptures, welded steel, oil on glass, pottery and acrylic painting.

Brian McQuillan is a metal artist and a Scantic River Arti-

sans member for three years. His art comprises 90% recycled metal parts, taking his inspiration from South Dakota native John Lopez.

McQuillan has done metal art for 15 years and came to the show with his wife, Marie.

"Sometimes I'll get an idea from a photograph that's in the news or from a picture of an animal or something like that, and other times I just make up my own animals, especially the insects," McQuillan said.

McQuillan said connecting with the community makes doing art shows meaningful.

"We've lived here for over 40 years and to connect with people, to talk with people that come in, it's just as important as the art," McQuillan said. "It's just a great way to connect with people."

Joe St. John creates pottery

and likes "to do different things with pottery" including natural elements like sticks and twigs, pit-fired pottery and more.

He came back to pottery after studying it in college.

"I'd like to do more shows and so I joined this artist group, which is a very good artist group, which is how I started doing things like this," St. John said.

He appreciates the Scantic River Artisans and hopes more local people showcase their work.

"When you get into an art group like this, you realize how many talented people there are in this area," St. John said. "You realize there are so many talented people, so it's good to be a part of that."

Nan Hurlburt, president of the Scantic River Artisans, explained that the group does four

annual shows.

"Not every member can do every show so we always like to make sure we have enough of a variety for people coming in to look," Hurlburt said.

Hurlburt appreciates their partnership with the senior center.

"We are just so honored to be here and have this beautiful center and this beautiful space. So many art groups have no place to exhibit," Hurlburt said. "We leave our artwork here every day for the seniors that come. They're just so pleased they can get to see this beautiful artwork."

Charlann Griswold showed off wine-inspired jewelry through Tangled Vine Jewelry, a new venture started last year between her, Hurlburt and Heather Black, another jeweler. The line will have three different seasonal options inspired by wineries.

Griswold loves showcasing the new venture and has re-

ceived great feedback so far.

"The artisan shows are the best shows. You're getting so many different vendors, so many different people that come to these shows. They're excited," Griswold said.

Griswold also praised the senior center for their support.

"It's just a gem that people don't seem to realize," Griswold said. "They do so many things and it's not just for old people."

Residents can learn more about Tangled Vine Jewelry at tangledvinejewelry.com.

Hurlburt wants the community to know the art shows and group are open to all.

"We'd like to make sure that everybody knows that it's open to everybody and that anybody can come," Hurlburt said. "We have members who are young teens and very senior seniors, so we like to make sure we have a variety of exhibiting artists."

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Peter and Beverlee Corriveau from Little Oak Farm in Wilbraham participated in the "Plowing the Community Garden" event on May 6. (Staff photo by Dalton Zbierski)

GARDEN from page 1

Springfield and Ludlow. We have everybody. Everybody is welcome," Graves said.

Beverlee Corriveau traveled to the community garden from nearby Little Oak Farm, also on Monson Road. Corriveau, who has a farm stand across the street, served as a vendor last Saturday, selling a variety of vegetables, flowers and homemade maple syrup.

Corriveau complimented the size of the community garden and said that the gardening community is friendly and willing to help new gardeners.

"It's a nice group of people. There's people here who will help you if you're new to gardening. There's everything. We have longtime grown up farmers, and everybody helps everybody," Corriveau said.

Elaine Joseph traveled to Wilbraham from Cedar Knoll Farm in Lisbon, CT with two Percheron horses named Hank and Harvey. Joseph has participated in Wilbraham's community garden plowing event since its inception.

"We're plowing these gardens just like they would have done 100 years ago or like the Amish do now. That's with various different types of plows. The plow we have with Hank and Harvey is actually a contemporary Amish plow," Joseph said.

Joseph praised Graves for her organizational skills and was impressed that Saturday's event drew a large number of people to the community garden.

During the summer, Joseph operates a carriage business and works a number of weddings. On May 6, however, plowing the community garden served as great a change of pace.

"It's always a really nice little event," she said. "(Graves) always gets some great little vendors here and always seems to get some people from the town who like to come out and see their plots being plowed. They get to have pictures with the horses that plowed their plots."

As the event ended, Graves noted that further work will be done to the garden to prepare it for the season. She said the horses make for a grand opening.

"Everybody loves the horses so this is just a show. We'll go back through here with a tractor to level everything out and even everything up," she said.

For more information on the community garden, Graves can be contacted in the Conservation office at 596-2800 ext. 204.

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This Week in Rec

Erin Carroll, Assistant Director

The other day I was walking around the Spec Pond Complex and I kept thinking how lucky we are in Wilbraham as we truly have some of the best playing fields in Western Massachusetts. Our parks staff and all the staff at WPRD are truly dedicated, passionate professionals and we all take great pride in our facilities and programs. Our mission has always been, and will continue to be, to make sure that Wilbraham has the best Parks and Recreation programs, events, and facilities possible.

Speaking of events, April was packed with special events including the Falcon Trail Race, Spec Pond Egg Hunt and Baseball/Softball Opening Day. On the horizon are the Spec Pond Fishing Derby, and the Kevin Ambrose Memorial Baseball Tournament.

The Spec Pond Fishing Derby will be held on Saturday, May 20, 9am-12pm! The Friends of Recreation, Parks and Rec Department and the MA Division of Fisheries and Wildlife have planned an event that is open to residents and non-residents: children, adults and seniors. Fishing instructors will be available to assist and FREE bait will be provided. Trophies will be awarded to the fist 30 kids (12 and under) who catch a fish. FREE coffee, donuts, and water for everyone, all compliments of Rice's Fruit Farm. The GRAND PRIZE for the largest fish caught (by length): a \$100 DICK'S Sporting Goods Gift Certificate, compliments of DICK'S Sporting Goods.

DONATION: \$2 per person with a maximum of \$10 per family.

Bait and assistance and some poles will be available thanks to the MA Division of Fisheries and Wildlife. Register the day of the event at Spec Pond. So bring the whole family for a morning of outdoor fun with a bit of competition stirred in. The fish are waiting!

We rely on the support of sponsors, volunteers, and coordinators for all these events and we wouldn't be able to run without the generosity and dedication of everyone involved. It is a true team effort to run these successful family events so a BIG thanks to everyone who has helped or will be helping!

Notes: Visit wilbrahamrec.com for program options and details and to register.



The community garden in Wilbraham has been freshly plowed by a team of horses. (Photo courtesy of Melissa Graves)



The Wilbraham Community Garden has officially been plowed. (Photo courtesy of Melissa Graves)

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Turley Publications is looking for a "hands on" energetic candidate who loves telling stories to be the editor for two weekly publications. This position will include managing and coaching a small news staff that will provide the community with a great local newspaper.

The editor will need to cover local government and events while representing the newspaper at public venues.

The successful candidate will have strong community journalism skills and is also expected to gather news and write stories for the two papers as well as for other occasional companywide publications.

This is a job for a self-starter who has a vision for growing and connecting with our valued readers, and who thoroughly enjoys community journalism.

This full-time position with flexible schedule is based in our Palmer office at 24 Water St., this is not a remote position.

Qualifications should include:

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- Proficiency in Associated Press style
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Please send resume and writing examples to:

Eileen Kennedy, Executive Editor
24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069
or email directly to
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Events & announcements schedule

Wilbraham Friends of the Library is holding spring plant sale

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

We had so much fun at the plant sale last fall we are doing it again this spring! We are offering annuals - Begonias (pink or white) and Petunias.

These are large plants in five-inch pots that are ready to plant and show off. Plants are \$5 each and available by pre-order only. Deadline for orders is May 10 and orders will be available for pick up Saturday, May 13 from 11 to 1 at the library.

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

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

Wilbraham Troop 359 to hold Annual Mother's Day Plant Sale May 13

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

Women educators group holding scholarship benefit tag sale

The tag sale benefits Greater Springfield area high schools

WILBRAHAM - A scholarship benefit tag sale will be held at Grace Union Church on Friday, May 12, and Saturday, May 13 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The DKG Society International for Key Women Educators Alpha Chapter Massachusetts is hosting the tag sale. The group promotes the professional and personal growth of women educators and excellence in education.

The Spring Blowout Sale will have clothing, toys and games, household goods, jewelry and more.

Proceeds from the tag sale benefit the Greater Springfield area high schools.

Last Wilbraham TAB meeting of the year to occur May 15

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

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

Teens should dress accordingly as dye may get on clothing.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Mediterranean Cookbook available at Wilbraham library

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

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

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

The community is invited to participate on Friday, May 19. Registration is at 3 p.m. at the parish center at 42 Main St. and meal re-packaging will conclude around 7 p.m.

St. Cecilia Parish members raised just over \$12,000 to bulk purchase each of the 100-pound bags of the several types of meal ingredients, which when re-packaged, will result in producing just under 30,000 family-sized meals, which will feed a family of four for one day. The value of each family-sized meal is about \$.35 each.

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

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

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

Rotary Club to hold another Calendar Raffle

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

The raffle is different from the one held last fall in that only cash prizes will be awarded. Prizes will be awarded every day of the month of June. "There will be a winner every day. That gives every entry many chances to win," announced club president Tracey Perry of Country Bank. To purchase a calendar contact Perry at 413-627-2571 or email Happytralf6@gmail.com . All proceeds will be given back to the community through various service projects and scholarships.

Garden Club Plant & Bake Sale to be held May 13

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

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

Hampden Senior Center Trips

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Minnechaug Craft Fair to occur May 13

WILBRAHAM – Next Saturday, May 13, a Craft Fair will take place at Minnechaug Regional High School along the car show and Wilbraham Hill Climb, from 9 a.m. to 4 pm.

Come view work from local students, artists and artisans working in a variety of media.

The event will feature paintings, ceramics, jewelry, photography, printmaking, woodworking, season crafts, health and beauty products and artisan foods.

For more information, or to sign up for a booth, contact jzera@hwrds.org.

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Falcons stave off big Agawam comeback

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

WILBRAHAM—At the beginning of April, the Minnechaug girls varsity lacrosse team traveled to Agawam High School and defeated the Brownies by 10 goals. The second meeting of the regular season between the Valley Wheel league rivals was a much closer affair.

The Lady Falcons, who held a man advantage for the final seven minutes of regulation, wound up sweeping the season series by squeaking out a 12-10 home victory over the Brownies, last Thursday afternoon.

“Agawam has a strong girls lacrosse program, so we were expecting a much closer game than the first time that we faced them,” said first-year Minnechaug varsity coach Maggie Kennedy. “It was a hard-fought game and I’m very proud of my team.”

Minnechaug, who entered this week’s action with a 4-7 overall record and had a 3-3 league record, snapped a three-game losing streak.



Photos by Gregory A. Scibelli

Kaelin Cerasuolo makes sure she has the ball before shooting.

“Our schedule is very challenging this year,” said Minnechaug sophomore Jayme Cerasulo “Our last game was against Concord-Carlisle, who’s a powerhouse team in Division

1. Playing against stronger competition will only help us in the power rankings. We’ve been improving in every game that we’ve played this season.” Despite having a below .500

record, the Lady Falcons were ranked 13th in the MIAA Division 2 power rankings.

Agawam (6-7, 5-5), who’s also a Division 2 team, was ranked 22nd. The top 32 teams

in each Division automatically qualify for the state tournament.

“We played shorthanded for the final seven minutes of today’s game, but we just kept battling back,” said longtime Agawam head coach Carla Lemnah-Warner. “I thought the kids played with a lot of heart.”

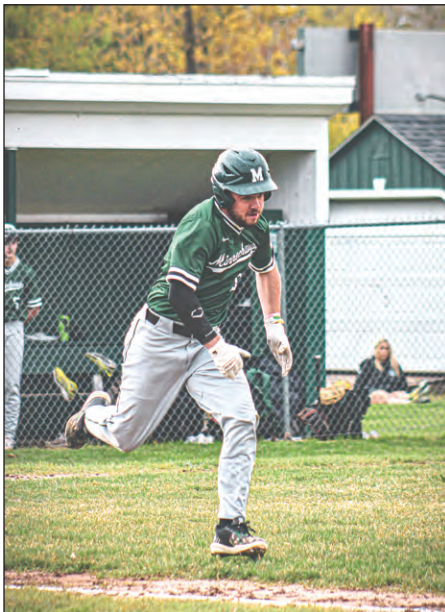
Cerasulo is recovering from a right knee injury, which forced her to miss the entire soccer season last fall. She scored a game-high five goals in the second meeting against Agawam.

“It just feels awesome to be back on the field again. All my hard work has paid off,” Cerasulo said. “It’s very easy to score goals when you’re surrounded by players who know what they’re doing. I also scored five goals against Leominster.”

Jayme’s older sister, Kaelin, is one of the eight seniors listed on the Lady Falcons varsity roster.

Kaelin Cerasulo, who had an assist in the home match versus the Brownies, is planning to play field hockey at Springfield Col-

Please see **FALCONS**, page 16



Jake Barlow hustles hard out of the box.



Ethan Purcell pitches for the Falcons.



Catcher Vince Charazarip frames a pitch.



Owen Gasteyer makes the transfer after fielding a pickoff throw.



Tim Harrigan swings at a pitch.



Frankie Graziano waits for an offering.

Photos by Sofia DiGrande

Falcons climb back above .500

WILBRHAM – Last Thursday, early runs hurt the Falcons in a 6-0 loss against Central High School. The Falcons were limited to just one hit in the loss. But the Falcons rebounded with an 8-7 win over West Springfield. Jake Barlow had a hit and three RBI while Owen Gasteyer had two hits and two RBI. The Falcons are now 7-6 this season.

NECBL announces full schedule for 2023

SOUTH HADLEY – The 2023 New England Collegiate Baseball League (NECBL) first pitch is slated for June 6, as Commissioner Sean McGrath has announced the full schedule for the 29th playing season.

All eyes will be on Dodd Stadium in Norwich, Connecticut on June 6, as the league kicks off its season with the Mystic Schooners hosting the Newport Gulls in the lone matchup of opening day. Ten other teams, including the defending champion Martha's Vineyard Sharks, will get to work on June 7th, with six games on tap, while Sanford is the last team to open their season, part of a seven-game schedule on June 8th that includes the first doubleheader of the year.

In 2022, Martha's Vineyard claimed their first league championship with a 2-0 sweep of the Vermont Mountaineers. That completed a prolific season for the Sharks, who had hosted the 2022 NECBL All Star Game and earned a Wild Card berth in the postseason. On their way to the championship, Martha's Vineyard knocked off both of the top seeds, the Bristol Blues and the Mountaineers, who had each tied an NECBL record with 32 regular season wins.

The anticipated rematches of the championship series will take place on June 27 on the Vineyard and July 12 in Montpelier.

Comprising 13 teams for the 2023 season, the league will once again operate with a three-division alignment. The Coastal Division will feature five teams (Martha's Vineyard, Mystic, Ocean State, North Shore & Newport), while the North Division (Keene, Vermont, Sanford, Upper Valley) and West Division (Bristol, Valley, North Adams, Danbury) will each include four teams.

Once again, all teams will play a 44-game slate in which they will play each of their divisional opponents seven times. Coastal Teams will play each non-division opponent twice, once at home and once on the road, while teams in the North Division and West Division will play non-divisional opponents three times apiece.

The league is grateful to the work of Ben Grannan, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Business Analytics at Queens University (NC) for taking on the complex task of creating the 2023 schedule. Grannan had to balance each team's facility availability, the number of intra- and inter-division matchups, travel considerations, double-headers, off-days, and more.

"The combination of computers and subject matter expertise is the current best practice to create sports schedules," explained Grannan. "Specifically, analytical models are used to track the potential home team, away team, and date of each baseball game during the season. The best schedule satisfies as many items as possible from the list of submitted NECBL team requests as well as the league requirements. Most importantly, the league office participates in a feedback loop to review the schedule and identify any nuances missed by the computer."

Sunday, June 23rd will see the league's best gather at historic Fraser Field in Lynn, Massachusetts for the 2023 NECBL All-Star Game, presented by Metro Credit Union. The

All-Star Game features the NECBL's top talent, with players from all NECBL organizations showcasing their skills in front of scouts from every Major League Baseball (MLB) organization.

In the final week of the season, each of the league's 13 teams will play solely against division rivals in hopes of qualifying for the 2023 NECBL Postseason, which will feature six teams (the three division winners and three wildcards who have the next three highest winning percentages league-wide after the division winners).

The division winners with the top-two regular season winning percentages will earn first-round byes, while the third division winner will battle the wildcard team with the lowest win percentage, and the wildcard teams with the best and second-best win percentages will also face off in a single-elimination wildcard round matchup.

The top seed/division winner will then meet the advancing team that is the lowest remaining wildcard team, while the second-highest seed/division winner faces the highest remaining wildcard team in the best-of-three semifinals before the last two teams standing square off in a best-of-three NECBL Championship Series for the right to hoist the Fay Vincent, Sr. Cup.

The final games of the regular season will be held on Saturday, July 29, with the following day (July 30) open for makeup games before the postseason begins with the Wild Card games on Monday, July 31.

The semifinals series will be played from August 1-3, and the final two teams will play for the championship from August 4-6.

All NECBL games will be streamed live on the NECBL Network, powered by BlueFrame Technology. The NECBL Network is available on both your desktop and mobile/tablet devices, as well as Roku, Amazon Fire TV, Android TV and Apple TV 4th Gen.

Rosters are filling up, and you can check out who is coming to play for your favorite team by heading to their team page at www.necbl.com. Make sure to follow these players all spring long as they compete for their colleges and tune up for their summer in the NECBL.

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

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



Kaliana Gagnon runs into a defender.



Brenna Slattery gets ready to restart play.

Roster spots remain open in Quabbin League

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

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

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

The season is scheduled to begin on Sunday, April 23. The league plays most Sunday from late April through late August with playoffs following that. The league plays a 15-game schedule and typically fields six teams each year. Games are usually played at 10 a.m. with fields in Easthampton and South Hadley normally used.

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



Isabelle Manning heads up the left side with the ball.



Jayme Cerasulo circles around the Agawam goal.

Photos by Gregory A. Scibelli

FALCONS from page 15

lege. Her father, Mike, has been the head football coach at Springfield College for the past seven years.

Kennedy, who coaches the Minnechaug varsity field hockey team in the fall, also played field hockey at Springfield College.

"It's very special to see one of my players play a sport at my alma mater," Kennedy said. "Kaelin has worked very hard and I'm very proud of her."

While Jayme Cerasulo led the way offensively against the Brownies, five other Minnechaug players scored a goal.

"Jayme has been playing great so far this season. She's a fantastic athlete," Kennedy said. "It was awesome to have several other players contribute offensively."

Junior Kaliana Gagnon also posted a hat-trick, while freshman Elizabeth Woytowski, sophomore Rylee Welch, junior Jenna Scatolini, and Moore each scored a goal. Senior Moira O'Brien also had an assist.

Down at the other end of the field, Minnechaug senior goalie Alexa Patrakis only had to make six saves. She's planning to continue playing lacrosse at Hartwick College, which is located in Oneonta,

New York.

"Alexa has been a fantastic goalie for us this year," Kennedy said. "She's an outstanding student in the classroom and is very focused. She's going to make an impact for her college lacrosse team."

O'Brien, who was a member of the Longmeadow co-op hockey team is planning to join the women's hockey team at Albertus Magnus College in New Haven, Connecticut.

The other Lady Falcons seniors are Vivian Tranghese, Reighan Demers, and Emma Kennedy.

One of the seniors listed on the Brownies varsity roster is Isabel Lalancette, who's going to be playing lacrosse at Springfield College.

"I've coached a number of players in the past who have played college lacrosse," Lemnah-Warner said. "It's always very nice to see your players play at that level."

The other Agawam seniors are Isabella Ugolini, Emilia Barron, Elizabeth Santore, Abigail Perry, and Marissa LaRocque, who's the starting goalie. LaRocque was credited with a total of 14 saves.

Lalancette and Perry combined to score six of the Brownies goals.

The duo of sophomore Isabella Spaulding and Ugolini netted the other four goals.

After the score was tied three times during the first half, the contest was tied for the final time at 6-6 following a Perry goal early in the second half.

With a little more than eight minutes remaining in the second half, Minnechaug built an 11-7 lead following Jayme Cerasulo's fifth goal of the match, which was unassisted.

A minute later, an Agawam player received a yellow card. It was the Brownies fourth yellow card of the match, which meant they had to play with one less player for the rest of the game.

Despite playing with one less player on the field, the Brownies battled back with a pair of goals by Perry, which were both assisted by Lalancette.

Ugolini also scored a goal closing the gap to 11-10 with five minutes remaining on the scoreboard clock.

Agawam had a couple of chances to tie the score once again, but a free position goal by Gagnon gave the home team a two goal advantage with two minutes left.

It turned out to be the final goal of the exciting match.

Agawam did celebrate an 11-4 home win against Westfield the following afternoon.

Robie takes modifieds win

WINCHESTER, N.H. – Modified super star Brian Robie won Sunday’s 80-lap NHSTRA Modified feature at Monadnock Speedway, first setting fast time in time trials, and then leading the final 54 laps of the afternoon’s main event to top the second annual Duel at The Dog biggie.

Other winners on 2023 opening weekend at the storied quarter-mile speedbowl included Tim Wenzel after a post-race inspection was concluded awarding him the win in the NHSTRA Late Models, Cole Littlewood, who wired the Outlaw main, and Gordon Farnum, who rocketed to victory lane in the Mini Stock feature, something he did a dozen times a summer ago. On Saturday’s event, Colton Martin took the Pure Stock victory. Owen Zilinski led all the way to score the Young Guns victory. Steve Miller, last summer’s Six Shooter champion at Claremont, led all the way Sunday to earn his first career Monadnock victory.

Sunapee’s Robie a former track Modified champion here set fast time with a blistering circuit of 12.660 seconds Sunday, the fastest of four sub-13 drivers in the 18-car field. By virtue of a top-four redraw, Sammy Rameau and Aaron Fellows sat on row one as the 80-lap main went green.

Rameau, who like Robie has impressed in past victories here,



Submitted photo

Brian Robie took the win in last Sunday’s modified event.

jumped all over the opening lead and set fast time the first 25 times around. But then Robie, from row two, took control and never looked back.

Fellows, strong in third until the victim of the second – of five – cautions, would return to notch a top ten finish, but with Robie and Rameau setting a blistering pace, it was Kimmy Rivet, methodical all afternoon as she marched forward from row five, earning an impressive third-place finish.

Kenny Thompson led the first 20 go-rounds of the Late Model feature but Ryan Bell, firing from row three, then took charge and outran 2022 Monadnock champ Tim Wenzel and Thompson into victory lane. In a post-race inspection, Wenzel was awarded

the win.

Farnum, who sold his championship Mini Stock ride only hours before Sunday’s feature gave it one last dash to victory lane. Cole Littlewood led all the way to win Sunday’s Outlaw main just ahead of Steve Bly. Littlewood’s brother Justin won the same event a year ago.

Monadnock Speedway will return to action on Msy 20, when it begins its 2023 Saturday night racing series as it hosts Military Appreciation Night, with a seven-division card of racing.

Results:

May 6 event

Pure Stocks: Colton Martin, Zach Zilinski, CJ Johnson, Chris Davis Carlos Grenier, Chris Conroy, Teagan Edson, Mike

Douglas, Dominick Stafford, Tim Taft, Trevor Carey, Chris Bingham, Jim Rhodes, Aaliyah Tacy, Matt Croteau, Ricky Melcher

May 7 Event:

Young Guns: Owen Zilinski, Adrian Smith, Emma Blake, Markus O’Neil, Kailyn Hubbard, Hunter Douglas

Six Shooters: Steve Miller, Michael, Yraton, Jacob Scott, Steve Miller Jr., John Thibodeau, Zach Zilinski, Andrew Scott, Tyler Scott, Garrett Barry, Rozwell Mason

Mini Stocks: Gordon Farnum, Louis Maher, Jon Fultz, Kevin Clayton, Chris Sontag, Cameron Williams, Cameron Sontag, Patrick Houle, Skyler Shippee, Greg Millette, Reagan Buffum, Matt Lambert, Kyle Templeton

NHSTRA Outlaws: Cole Littlewood, Steve Bly, Phil Meany, John Meany, Leighton Lutz

NHSTRA Late Models:

Tim Wenzel, Kenny Thompson, Hillary Renaud, JD Stockwell, Chris Emerson, Isabella Minchella, Kevin McKnight, Dan Robinson, Chris Castor, Robert Hagar

NHSTRA Modifieds: Brian Robie, Sammy Rameau, Kim Rivet, Tyler Leary, Geoff Rollins, Scott Zilinski, Jeff Battle, Adam Lapoint, Eric Leclair, Aaron Fellows, Nathan Wenzel, Nancy Muni-Ruot, Brian Chapin, Cole Littlewood, Josh Carey, Blair Culhane, Cory Plummer, Joel Belanger

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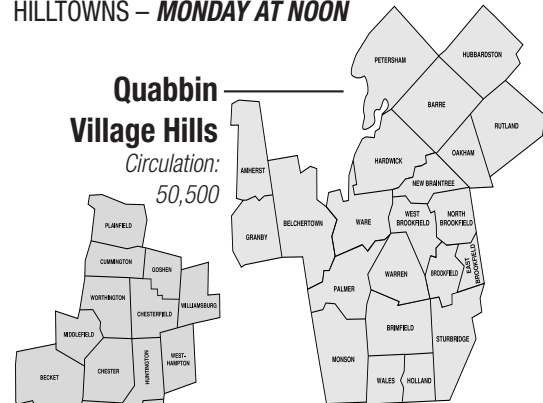


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PUBLIC NOTICES

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 17, 2023 at 6 PM** at the Town House, 625 Main Street, Hampden, for a Request for Determination of Applicability, (RDA), submitted by Caryn Greco, Trustee for the property known as 19/37 Chapin Road, also known as Assessor's Map 37, Blocks 38 & 41, to add a 26' x 40' concrete pad and erect a barn. 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.

On Behalf of the Conservation Commission,
Judy McKinley-Brewer,
Ted Zebert,
co-chairs

5/11/2023

WILBRAHAM PLANNING BOARD

The Wilbraham Planning Board will hold a Public Hearing on **Wednesday, May 24, 2023, at 6:00 PM** in the Town Office Building, 240 Springfield Street, on the application of Amp Energy for a Special Permit as required under Sections 3.4.3.7 and 10.7 of the Wilbraham Zoning By-Law to allow modification of a prior special permit (SP18-06) for a large-scale ground-mounted solar energy system on property owned by ASL Three Rivers Land Holdings LLC located at 285 Three Rivers Road to allow an extension of the deadline to complete work as well as project modifications including changes to stormwater design, grading, landscaping, and location and configuration of equipment pads as shown on information on file in the Planning Office and posted for public viewing on the Planning Board page of the Town of Wilbraham website at www.wilbraham-ma.gov/123/Planning-Board. Both in person and virtual participation are available. To participate virtually go to <https://meet.goto.com/338451845> or call

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

LEGAL NOTICE Town of Wilbraham

The Wilbraham Conservation Commission will hold a public hearing on Monday May 22, 2023 at 7:15 PM on the Notice of Intent filed by SFZ Properties LLC under the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act and the Wilbraham Wetlands Bylaw to determine whether the work depicted on plans submitted is subject to the Wilbraham Wetland Bylaw and the Wetlands Protection Act. The project includes the replacement of an existing septic system and the construction of a garage addition within the 100-foot buffer zone of Bordering Vegetated Wetland and within 200-foot of Riverfront. The property is located at 337 Maynard Road. Information relating to this application is on file with the Conservation Commission.

Christopher Brown,
Chairman
05/11/2023

WILBRAHAM BOARD OF APPEALS PUBLIC HEARING

The Wilbraham Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a Public Hearing on **Thursday, May 18, 2023 at 5:45 PM** on the application of Matrissa Crapps and India Kyles for a special permit under section 3.4.5.14 of the Wilbraham Zoning By-Law to allow Unit #1 of the existing building on property owned by Resource Development LLP located at 1964 Boston Road to be leased for use as a fitness studio as further specified in the application on file in the Planning Office and posted for public viewing on the Zoning Board of Appeals page of the Town of Wilbraham website at www.wilbraham-ma.gov/135/Zoning-Board-of-Appeals.

Both in person and virtual participation are available. To participate virtually go to <https://meet.goto.com/259097525> or call 866-899-4679 (Access Code: 259-097-525).

Edward Kivari Jr., Chairman
05/04, 05/11/2023

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Hampden Probate and Family Court 50 State Street

Springfield, MA 01103 (413)748-7758 Docket No. HD23P0910EA Estate of: Bruce Forbes Date of Death: 05/16/2021 CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION

To all interested persons: A Petition for **Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **Tracey Ann Bey of Westfield MA** requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

The Petitioner requests that: **Tracey Ann Bey of Westfield MA** be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond in **unsupervised administration**.

IMPORTANT NOTICE
You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 05/31/2023.

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

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)

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

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

Date: May 03, 2023
Rosemary A. Saccomani
Register of Probate
05/11/2023

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Hampden Probate and Family Court 50 State Street Springfield, MA 01103 (413)748-7758 Docket No. HD23C0137CA

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

Patricia Lynn Hebert
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 06/01/2023.**

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: May 04, 2023

Rosemary A Saccomani
Register of Probate
05/11/2023

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

2004 Honda Civic
VIN: 2HGES16574H585171
COLOR: Green
LKO: Kiana Carter
7801 Roosevelt Ave. Apt. 78
Philadelphia PA 19152

2017 Hyundai Elantra
VIN: 5NPD74LF8HH212762
COLOR: Silver
LKO: Deborah Magill
53 Champlain Ave
Indian Orchard MA
R & S Assoc. Inc.
Wilbraham MA
413-596-4374
05/04, 05/11, 05/18/2023

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 17, 2023 at 6 PM** at the Town House, 625 Main Street, Hampden, for a Request for Determination of Applicability, (RDA), submitted by SWCA Environmental Consultants on behalf of Eversource Gas Company of Massachusetts dba Eversource Energy for the installation of a gas main along a portion of Mill Road. 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.

On Behalf of the Conservation Commission,
Judy McKinley-Brewer,
Ted Zebert,
co-chairs

05/11/2023

Job Connection

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Sunshine Village, a non-profit organization provides day habilitation and community services to individuals with developmental disabilities. Sunshine Village is an employer of choice and a great place to work!

Job Title: Van Driver

Job Summary:
Provide transportation to individuals with Developmental Disabilities to and from our day programs

Route:
Palmer, Monson, Ware, Ludlow, Wilbraham area

Hours:
Part Time, approximately 20 hours
General hours (may vary): Monday – Friday
7:30am – 9:30am and 2:30pm – 4:30pm

Experience Required:
Must have experience driving individuals with disabilities (15 passenger van experience a plus)

Educational Requirements:
High School Diploma/ GED/or Equivalent

Other Requirements:
Ability to lift 30 lbs comfortably, a valid driver's license and clean driving record. Drug Screen, CORI, SORI and Fingerprint check required.

Salary: \$16.02/hr

Accepting applications:
Apply in person at 75 Litwin Lane, Chicopee, MA 01020.
AA/EOE. Sunshine Village is a great place to work!

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.

PUBLIC NOTICES ARE NOW ONLINE

- 1 Email all notices to notices@turley.com
- 2 Access archives and digital tear sheets by newspaper title.
- 3 Find a quick link to the state of Massachusetts' public notice web site to search all notices in Massachusetts newspapers.

Public notice deadlines are Mondays at noon, Fridays noon for Monday holidays.

visit www.publicnotices.turley.com

SENIORS

Hampden Senior Center announces April events

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

HELP US STOCK OUR SHELVES with Disinfecting Wipes!!

Thank you to those that donated dish soap last month. Every month we will target a different item to fill our shelves.

People who qualify for SNAP are unable to use their benefits on nonfood items, so we hope this collection will help those most in need. Once the shelves are stocked, items will be available by request monthly. Call Wendy for details.

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

COMING SOON...

D & R FARM SUMMER FARM SHARE

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

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

May is Older Americans Month - Save these Dates:

Friday, 5/12 at 1 p.m.

Chair Volleyball Demonstration by East Longmead-

ow Council On Aging

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

UCLA Memory Training Program Wednesday, 5/17 – 6 p.m.

Estate Planning with Attorney David Carlson

Friday, 5/19 at noon

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

Tuesday, 5/23 at noon

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

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

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

Reservations for special events, new classes, and Grab & Go Dinners will be taken.

on the first day of the month, on a first-come, first-serve basis.

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Panchenkopower@gmail.com
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