

BUSINESS
Magnolia & Maple Studio opens
Page 9

SPORTS
Softball qualifies for tournament
Page 11

Public forum held on Old Town House

By Kristin Rivers
Editor
krivers@turley.com

HAMPDEN - The Old Town House Committee held a public forum on the future of the Old Town House on April 28 to discuss survey results, an overview of the current options, answer questions and seek resident input.

It should be noted that no choice was recommended at this meeting, but rather, the choices presented were the options ahead that the resi-

Please see **FORUM**, page 8



Turley photos by Kristin Rivers

Residents had the opportunity to share their input and ideas.

LEFT: This survey shows the people who took the community survey on the Old Town House.



Photo courtesy of Megan Harrigan

Megan Harrigan, chairperson of Keep Wilbraham Beautiful, in a group photo with volunteers and family showcasing the trash that's been collected.

Town Clean-Up brings community together

By Reese Magee
Correspondent

WILBRAHAM - On Saturday May 2, people in the community came together to clean up the town during the Fourth Annual Keep Wilbraham Beautiful Earth Day Community Clean-Up event.

The event helped make the neighborhoods cleaner and safer.

This year's event was held at Memorial School and featured an opportunity for residents to tour the building, which was made possible through the Parks & Rec Department.

Families also received a tree sapling as a thank you gift.

Also, the CARE metal art installation was back as volunteers filled it with nip bottles. This will be on display outside Memorial School.

The sponsors were USA Waste, Pick Up Massachusetts, NEPM, the Conservation Commission, Polish National Credit Union,

Friendly's, LUSO Federal Credit Union, Hampden-Wilbraham Partners 4 Youth, Christ the King Epiphany Church, Rice Fruit Farm, the Wilbraham Parks & Rec Department, Gagliarducci Construction, Fern Valley Farms and more, along with the following Care Level Sponsors who purchased a yard sign to help promote the event: Harrigan Family, Smith Family, Pryor Family, Camerota Family, Restore Health and Wellness, MacDonald Family, Pitzer Family and the Flanagan Family.

Megan Harrigan, a life-long Wilbraham resident, mom of four and the chairperson of Keep Wilbraham Beautiful, helped organize the town cleanup.

"We had over 200 volunteers participate this year," Harrigan said. "Younger volunteers also helped clean up playgrounds, parks, trails, school grounds, and parking lots."

Please see **CLEAN-UP**, page 4

A look at the upcoming Wilbraham election

By Kristin Rivers
Editor
krivers@turley.com

WILBRAHAM - With the town election near, here's a list of the other candidates who will appear on the ballot when residents head to the polls on May 16.

All voting takes place at Minnechaug Regional High School from 8:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.

As highlighted in prior editions, the Select Board has two candidates vying for one seat, with Michael Squindo and Ryan Costello, the School Committee has two open seats, with Dr. Michael Tirabassi and William Metzger Jr., John Caltabiano is running for Water Commissioner and another contested race is for the Board of Assessors between John Wesowloski and Daniel Fernandes, which readers can find in this week's edition.

Here are the other races.

- **Planning Board:** One open five-year position
- **Cemetery Commissioner:** One open three-year position and one open two-year position
- **Housing Authority:** Aaron Shepard
- **Library Trustees:** Marylou Fabbo and Ronnie Haislip-Hansberry, this one is uncontested with two open seats

Haislip-Hansberry also shared responses with the Times, which readers can find below.

What makes you qualified to serve in the position of Library Trustee?

I am currently serving as a library trustee, so I am familiar with the ongoing work of the trustees. I am also a member of the WFOL and I am a librarian. I've always loved

Please see **ELECTION**, page 9

SB decides Scantic River Brewery's wine pour request

By Ben Hernandez
Staff Writer

WILBRAHAM - The Select Board has made their decision on the petition of Scantic River Brewery to attain a wine pour permit on May 8.

The local brewery's request for a farmer's winery pouring permit would allow the business to pour and serve wine on the premises.

Initial confusion about the request's nature prompted the Select Board to table the conversation at a previous hearing the week before,

which sparked the secondary hearing.

Scantic River Brewery co-owner David Buel was in attendance to represent both his business partner David Avery and the company.

"I know you are representing you and your partner tonight," Select Board Chair Michael Squindo said. "So, we had questions last week and I think if the board's in agreement, the way I understood it was that basically, as long as the wine created offsite is created in Scantic River Brewery's name, it's a valid use of that."

The comment referenced the last hearing, where the uncertain logistics around offsite created wine sparked an in-depth discussion on the legitimacy of the brewery's intent to use Echo Hill's facility for wine production.

The legal uncertainty prompted Select Board representatives to table the request at the initial meeting in lieu of further advisement from the Alcoholic Beverages Control Commission.

Vice Chair Marc Ducey

Please see **SCANTIC RIVER**, page 4



Photo courtesy of Kayla Smith

Violaist Aezlin Rost excitedly receives the String Award.

Minnechaug Music hosts bittersweet Pops Concert

By Selena Nguyen
Correspondent

WILBRAHAM - On the evening of May 6, the Minnechaug Music Department held their annual Pops Concert, hosted every spring to display a variety of up-beat, Pop music performed by various ensembles.

The String Ensemble opened the event with hit songs, such as Laufey's jazz-influenced "From the Start" and "Across the Stars" from the Star Wars movie soundtrack.

Between songs, Dave Morris - Minnechaug Di-

rector of Band and Strings - presented the String Award to Senior Aezlin Rost, honoring the First Chair Violaist for her consistent leadership and positive contribution to the Ensemble.

"I never really thought about all this effort to get an award. I just kind of did it, because I enjoyed it. It wasn't for the purpose of receiving anything," Aezlin said.

Her words resonated perfectly with Morris's speech, who referred to the violaist as, "... one of the most gen-

Please see **POP**, page 13

MJK Foundation launches the CJ Cronin Mentorship Program

By Natalie Proulx
Correspondent

WILBRAHAM/HAMPDEN - On Friday May 1 from 6 to 10 p.m., the MJK Foundation hosted a launch for the CJ Cronin Mentorship Program at GreatHorse in Hampden.

The "Run for the Roses", held the night before the Kentucky Derby on May 2, was Kentucky-Derby themed with Derby-themed attire and even virtual horse race raffles to raise money for both the foundation and their new mentorship program.

Upon entry, attendees were given a program with the event itinerary as well

as letters from the parents of the people who made it all possible.

The president of the MJK Foundation, Joe Hutchinson, explained a little bit about the foundation and what it means to him.

"We established the MJK Foundation in June of 2023 and we decided our mission was to help youth suffering with mental health," Hutchinson said.

At the launch, a table inside the venue held lots of little MJK swag like stickers, notepads, and goodies that one might overlook, but Hutchinson stated its importance to him. Next to the table, a picture of his cousin, Mike and a little bit about

him stood.

"They see MJK and they don't know what it stands for," Hutchinson said. "I'm going to really try to make it a point so people know why."

The memory of Hutchinson's cousin, Michael J. Kuzdzal, who passed away too soon, struggling silently with his mental health back in March of 2023, is kept alive through the MJK Foundation. It aims to hold training sessions for mentors and provide them with the tools to help adolescents navigate the struggles of mental health and their

Please see **CJ CRONIN**, page 3



Photo courtesy of Jared Proulx

Many attendees celebrate the foundation and the memorial mentorship program in the beautiful interior of the GreatHorse.

COMMUNITY

Selectboard, Green Meadows to meet on little free library proposal

By Kristin Rivers
Editor
krivers@turley.com

HAMPDEN - The Selectboard will be meeting with Green Meadows Elementary School to discuss their proposal for a little free library.

The topic was presented at the May 4 meeting when Chair John Flynn explained how he did a Read Aloud in Teacher Kristen Chapdelaine's class recently and was told about the proposal.

"They're talking about a little free library thing. They want it on the grassy knoll to the right of the driveway," Flynn said.

A little free library is a free book exchange that's housed in a small, weather-resistant box that's usually placed on a post in a front yard, park or community space where people take a book and can, also, leave a book.

It's part of a global, volunteer-driven movement to help increase access to books and

create community connections.

After it was noted that there were little free libraries located at Memorial Park and outside the library, Selectboard Member Erik Vanderleeden explained his wife uses it.

"I've seen people donate some books and, hopefully, the thought process is you take one, leave one, pretty much," Vanderleeden said.

After Flynn asked if the school wanted this in the grassy area or next to the entrance next to the double doors, he was told the idea would be the kids would be leaving school to go home and take the books.

"That's what I was thinking. That's why next to the doorway to the right, which is kind of where I wanted that posting area too, would make a little more sense than over in the grass area," Flynn said.

Then, Flynn suggested Chapdelaine and Head Custodian Darryl Fidalgo come to a meeting to discuss this further.

Selectboard Member Don Davenport also offered this thought.

"We might, also, if Green Meadows is leased to the region," Davenport said. "Do they have to have some kind of input to it?"

When Flynn replied no and Vanderleeden said yes—mentioning School Committee Chair Michal Boudreau, Davenport said he was unsure.

"I don't know what the lease says about something like that," Davenport said.

Either way, Davenport agreed with Flynn to have the school meet with the board to learn more.

"Let's have them come in," Davenport said.

"I mean, they've already raised money for it," Flynn said.

Vanderleeden also agreed with his colleagues.

"I think it's a good idea," Vanderleeden said.

The meeting with Green Meadows Elementary School will happen on a future date.

Meet the Wilbraham Board of Assessors Candidates

By Kristin Rivers
Editor
krivers@turley.com

WILBRAHAM - As we wrap up town election coverage, there's one more contested race to highlight in Wilbraham, with two candidates vying for a seat on the Board of Assessors.

The candidates are John Wesolowski, who currently serves as chairman of the board, and challenger Daniel Fernandes.

John Wesolowski

Wesolowski noted his technical skills and experience, along with previous service on the Finance Committee and 20 years of experience with the Board of Assessors as part of his qualifications.

"My qualifications for this highly technical position align with my professional education and career. I have a BS/BA and an MSA in ac-

counting, a CPA, and nearly 50 years of experience as a business owner and professional, starting as an auditor at KPMG and serving as Budget Director, Controller, CFO, Treasurer, Executive Vice President for a billion-dollar entity and Fortune 100 company, and most recently as CEO of a major healthcare organization. All of these positions had responsibilities relating to the construction and management of real estate," Wesolowski said. "I have attained the Massachusetts Certification in Assessment Administration Law and Procedures and the designation as a Massachusetts Certified Governmental Finance Officer."

He added community involvement as another factor.

"Through my involvement in the community as a youth sports coach, Girl Scout Cookie Drive volunteer, and Boy Scout Scoutmaster, as well as supporting our schools and teachers, and serving as a member of St. Cecilia Church Finance Committee and the Knights of Columbus, I have developed a strong understanding of the community, its economics, operations, and culture," Wesolowski said. "The Assessor position is highly technical, strictly regulated and audited. I'm proud to bring my work experience to serve the community that I value and have been part of for decades. Most importantly, I have,



John Wesolowski

Please see **CANDIDATES**, page 15

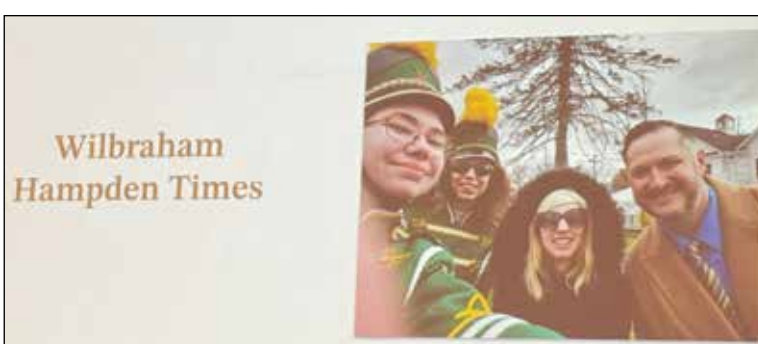
WHT recognized at Mentor Appreciation Night



WILBRAHAM - The Wilbraham-Hampden Times and its editor, Kristin Rivers, and Correspondent Natalie Proulx were recognized by Minnechaug Regional High School during Mentor Appreciation Night on May 7.

The ceremony recognized the mentors and organizations who have overseen student interns during the 2025-2026 school year.

In addition to Proulx, Angelina Acevedo, also a senior at Minnechaug, has also been working with the Times during her time as a student, seen in the group photo from the November 2025 Veterans Day Ceremony in Wilbraham. Proulx and Acevedo both



plan to pursue journalism in college.

Proulx was among 70 seniors recognized with a certificate of appreciation from the school, with Rivers also receiving one—and a gift bag—alongside many other organizations and mentors from the fire department, Country Bank and Armata's Market to the Ludlow Public Schools and Baystate Wing Hospital.

The ceremony also included remarks from Superintendent Dr. John Provost, Principal Steve Hale, School to Career Coordinator Liz Goncalves and student speeches from Elaina Bergeron, Anthony Cianflone, Nolah McConnell, Maxwell Baroni and Cora Pace.

Elijah Webster served as master of ceremonies.

Wilbraham Memorial Day ceremony set for May 24

WILBRAHAM - The town of Wilbraham's Memorial Day Observance will be taking place on Sunday, May 24, at 11 a.m. at Crane Park.

The annual ceremony is hosted by the Wilbraham Department of Veterans Services.

The community is encouraged to attend to honor our heroes and remember the fallen.



FC & P
Ferrara Consulting & Properties
 Consulting all Matters of Real Estate
 Art Ferrara
 (413) 348-5827
 Facebook.com/FCPconsult
 WWW.FCPCONSULT.COM

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

TOP DOLLAR PAID CARS, TRUCKS & SUVs
GOOD OR JUNK
"WE COME WITH THE CASH"
Nate (413) 636-2929
D AND M AUTO
1422 Park St.
Palmer, MA 01069

ROZELL'S LANDSCAPING & BEHAVIOR SERVICE
 413-636-5957
 • Overgrown property?
 • Excavator Services • Extreme Brush Cutting!
 • Shrub, Stump, Tree Removal • Lawn/Arborvitae Installed
 • Loam, Stone, Mulch, Sand • Storm Clean-up • Small Demo • Insured
JOSH ROZELL 413.636.5957

ROBERTS ROOFS
 SPECIALIZING IN
 Slate • Copper • Architectural Shingles • Gutters
 Historical Restoration • Flat Roofing
Snow Removal
Snow/Ice Damage Repair
 Tel. 413-283-4395
 Cell 413-237-9434
 www.RobertsRoofsInc.com
 Trusted Name Since 1982

The Jack Rome Memorial 5K & Fun Walk 2026

THANK YOU to our incredible sponsors, volunteers, vendors, food trucks, patrons, runners, and walkers for making this event possible. We are especially grateful to Gary Rome Hyundai, Western Mass News, and the Richard & Barbara Whitcomb Foundation for their generous support. Your dedication to the TJO animals and to our community is what makes this event such a meaningful success.

With your support, together we raised over \$58K!

Not all superheroes wear capes. Some wear sneakers. Some have paws.

THE JACK ROME MEMORIAL 5K

To Benefit The Foundation for TJO Animals

Foundation for TJO Animals + Thomas J. O'Connor Animal Control & Adoption Center
SAVING LIVES TOGETHER

COMMUNITY

A look at Hampden Town Election Races

By Kristin Rivers
Editor
krivers@turley.com

HAMPDEN - Ahead of the May 18 town election, here is a list of the other candidates that residents will find on the ballot.

As a reminder, the new polling location is now at the new town hall located on 85 Wilbraham Rd.

As already noted in last week's edition, Maura Ryan and Richard Rediker are in

a contested race to represent Hampden on the School Committee.

Here are the other races:

- **Selectboard:** John Flynn
- **Planning Board:** John Quackenbush and Robert Howarth, this race is also a contested one
- **Library Trustees:** Jean Hall
- **Housing Authority:** Carol Collins
- **Moderator:** Richard Green
- **Board of Assessors:** Robert Makuch
- **Cemetery Commissioner:** Darryl Fidalgo
- **Park Commissioners:** Julie Wickman, with a second open position as a write-in candidate

New polling location

HAMPDEN - The Town Clerk's office would like to share the following public service announcement.

For all future elections, the polling location is now at the new town hall on 85 Wilbraham Rd. in Hampden.



CJ CRONIN from page 1

own emotional/psychological needs.

They aim to prove that mental health is as important as physical health, if not more.

The CJ Cronin Memorial Mentorship Program, meanwhile, is in memory of 20-year-old Christopher John Cronin who was a resident of Wilbraham who unfortunately passed away in December 2024 by suicide.

Cronin was a talented athlete who was severely impacted on his high school Senior Night for football where he tore his ACL. This injury took a toll on his athletic career, his physical health, but most importantly his mental health. "It really dug him into a dark place," Hutchinson said. "We've unfortunately, in town here in Wilbraham and just the local areas...have dealt with a lot of loss, young loss."

The Memorial Mentorship Program that the MJK Foundation is launching aims to provide mentors to the high school and P.W. level sports programs to provide student athletes with the support and mental health aid side of sports. Trained interns from ages 20 to 23 will show up where it matters in the everyday moments that shape the lives of young athletes, both on and off the field, to combat the unseen challenges and gap between support in physical health and mental health for players.

The night consisted of live music from the band The New System, different fundraising events, photo opportunities, an appearance from Miss Constitution Christa Steiner, who is also contestant for Miss Connecticut. Throughout the night, six Kentucky Derby-themed virtual horse race betting raffles took place.

Old recorded horse races were, also, played for the audience to make a bet for a chance to win raffle prizes. Alongside this horse race



The horse race betting raffle station where attendees could "place their bets."



Joe Hutchinson gives a welcome speech on the foundation and the program.

affle, there was also a silent auction held throughout the night with all sorts of sports memorabilia to raise money for the foundation and the mentorship program.

Other than it being the night before the races, there was no specific significance in the night's Kentucky Derby theme in relation to the MJK Foundation's launch and their story, except this.

"I come from a family who really enjoyed the horse races and things like that growing up... it's been a weekend that's always meant something to my family, so that's why we picked it," Hutchinson said.

To see all the work that Hutchinson put into the night and to see people showing up was an incredible moment that made all the planning for the day worth it for him and

his family. "You can't beat being at GreatHorse," Hutchinson said. "The venue, the sights, and what it holds."

If you are interested in

learning more about the MJK Foundation and the CJ Cronin Memorial Mentorship Program or would like to donate/support their mission, you can visit: mjkfoundation.org.



Christa Steiner, Miss Constitution, poses with the "Run for the Roses" sign. Photos courtesy of Jared Proulx

THE BEST FRESH FOR SPRING PLANTING!

Spectacular Hanging Baskets
Full Of Colorful Blooming Annuals
Sun Loving ~ Mixed Garden Baskets, Ivy Geraniums, Petunias & Calibrachoa
SHADE LOVING ~ FUCHSIAS, BEGONIAS & IMPATIENS

Beautiful BLOOMING PATIO POTS

Locally Grown GERANIUMS
Favorite Summer Bloomers
Beautiful Jumbo 12-inch Patio Pots
8-inch and 5-inch Pots Too!
Red, White & Pink Colors

Grow Your Own Edibles!
CULINARY HERBS
Blueberry Bushes ~ Many Varieties
• Strawberry Plants •
• Raspberry Bushes • Rhubarb •

For The Garden Returning Year After Year
Blooming Perennials
GREAT SELECTION
Gallon Size
Columbine, Dianthus, Heuchera, Fox Glove Climbing Clematis & Honeysuckle

Locally Grown Asparagus!
From D.A. Smiarowski Farms ~ Sunderland, MA

Elsie's Creamery Open For The Season!
The Best Homemade Ice Cream
Made Fresh At The Creamery
Soft Serves, Shakes, Sundaes & Razzles Too
WINNER OF READER RAVES
ALWAYS FRESH AT

RANDALL'S FARM & GREENHOUSE

631 CENTER ST., Route 21, Mass Tpke Exit 54
LUDLOW • 589-7071 • www.randallsfarm.net
OPEN EVERY DAY 7AM - 8PM
Find us on [facebook](#) and [YouTube](#)

TROMBLEY WEALTH MANAGEMENT

NOW AT

2022 Boston Rd. Wilbraham, MA

- Helping clients live their best financial life since 1965
- Accomplished, Friendly and Professional
- Minimum required

Mike Trombley, Financial Advisor, Former MLB Player; Barbara Trombley, CPA, Financial Advisor

trombleywealth.com
413-596-6992

Securities offered through LPL Financial. Member FINRA/SIPC. Advisory services offered through Trombley Wealth Management, a registered investment advisor and separate entity from LPL Financial.

Find your MARKET IN THE CLASSIFIEDS!

413.283.8393 • classifieds@turley.com
24 Water St., Palmer • 80 Main St., Ware

CLEAN UP from page 1

The volunteers collected enough trash to fill nearly an entire 20-yard dumpster.

“Some of the unusual items collected included a shopping cart, a boat motor and fluorescent light bulbs,” Harrigan said.

Parks, neighborhoods, and streets looked much cleaner after the event.

Harrigan also explained that the cleanup “sparked ongoing efforts, with residents continuing to pick up litter whenever they see it.”

One reason Harrigan organizes this event is because keeping the environment clean has always been important to her as both a parent and resident of the community. She’s raised her kids to care about their community whether they are in town, at the beach or on a hike.

“I was surprised something like this didn’t already exist locally, and it inspired me to help build a larger, community-wide effort focused on pride, responsibility, and environmental awareness,” Harrigan said.

One memorable part of the day was seeing families, kids, and neighbors working together to help clean up the town.

“It’s always inspiring to see so many familiar faces return year after year, along with new families, teams, and



Photos courtesy of Megan Harrigan

These volunteers pose for a group photo with this year's yard sign that promoted the event throughout Wilbraham.

community groups joining in. Watching people of all ages work together—especially kids learning the importance of giving back—really stands out,” Harrigan said.

People of all ages can get involved by joining future clean up events or picking up litter whenever they see it. There are always opportunities to make a difference in our town. Harrigan noted that, “Supplies can also be requested for independent clean-ups at any time.”

She hopes that people will continue to helping out when-

ever they can.

“Every small action adds up, and keeping our communities clean is something we can all be part of,” Harrigan said.

Families also came together to offer their support.



Volunteers get ready to greet attendees and set up for the event.



A group photo of volunteers with a sponsor sign for Friendly's Ice Cream, which lent its support to the event and provided free ice cream.

SCANTIC RIVER from page 1

also remarked that the request is for both a “wine hold and license hold.”

As established in the previous Select Board public hearing, Scantic River Brewery is the first business in town to request such a measure; which created initial uncertainty about price points and logistics of license distribution.

“Before we move into our second public hearing, part of the first one was setting the rate for this particular permit,” Squindo said. “Because this is the first time that we’ve ever been asked for this. So, the town does not have a price tag on this permit.”

Clerk Sue Bunnell asked if one of the documents the board had “did have a range of pricing numbers it in.”

“Did it not, Nick?” Bunnell said.

After Town Administrator Nick Breault explained if he had written anything, “it was just for consideration of some ranges,” Bunnell clarified her question was on the document for review.

“I thought it made reference to \$22 for some level of quantity and then it went up from there?” Bunnell said.

Buel said this was part of the farmers wine license.

“It goes by production quantities, like \$22 for like a microbrewery or a micro winery. That’s what ABCC charges us,” Buel said.

On Squindo’s question of there being a fee for the farmers brewery permit, Breault said this was correct.

“We charged \$1,000 for the annual fee for that,” Breault said.

“Okay. Just to put it in context, I don’t know—I’ll

throw out just for conversational purposes—whether we do it \$1,000 for each and, in subsequent years, it would be a single-joint permit in this situation.”

Breault added if the board takes the vote to do that, then yes this would be correct.

“Because you have a second vote under the premises that consolidates the two and \$2,000 is the amount that the town charges for all alcohol for an annual on-premise,” Breault said.

After Ducey asked if there was any understanding on what neighbors would be charging, the answer was no.

“Do we need to do this tonight?” Ducey said. “Do we need to set the rate tonight?”

Breault said it was not required that evening.

Squindo then presented this suggestion.

“So, for conversation, I guess I would toss out that to

have parity with the brewery permit as an isolated permit,” Squindo said. “Would the board entertain \$1,000, and if the board is so inclined to approve the joint permit for going forward, do we recognize the efficiencies there and say \$1,500 for an annual going forward where they save \$500 because we’re doing it two going together moving forward versus coming to us twice for two different sets of permits?”

After Bunnell and Squindo deliberated over price and the logistics of piecemealing the pour permissions based on the spirit type, Ducey added his perspective.

“I’m okay with setting it at whatever right now, but I’d like to readdress it after we find out what neighboring towns and communities are charging,” Ducey said. “So, for expediency purposes, I’m okay with setting it what we

think is right.”

As deliberations continued, Heather Kmelius, administrative assistant to the Town Administrator, also shared her thoughts.

“The fee that they would pay for the license does not get collected from the town until it’s approved by the ABCC,” Kmelius said. “So, there is some time there.”

After Ducey replied, “so we don’t need to set a time, it won’t slow anything down,” Kmelius replied, “That’s up to you.”

“But they don’t have to,” Kmelius said.

On the question of how long it would expect to be approved by the ABCC, she added “it would be a week to a few months.”

“I would prefer to wait if we can. If it’s not going to hold—at the same time, I don’t want to hold it up either—but it won’t hold it up it

sounds like,” Ducey said.

Further discussion revealed that the license price is set at the local level and that the ABCC isn’t concerned about the price at all. Moreover, the license review would reach the governing body’s desk the next day should the Select Board approve it during the meeting.

“Oh, so the ABCC doesn’t even care what the fee is,” Squindo said.

“They do not. That is a local decision,” Kmelius said.

With that clarity, the Select Board moved to the second public hearing. After this, the Select Board approved the application.

The brewery’s request is now in the ABCC’s hands for approval.

“Congratulations, sir,” Squindo said to Buel, who thanked him.

Morgan Stanley

Welcome

Morgan Stanley is proud to welcome Antonio Bastos to the New England Wealth Management Team.



Antonio Bastos CRPS®
Vice President
Financial Advisor
1500 Main Street, 19th Floor
Springfield, MA 01115
413-736-1121
antonio.bastos@morganstanley.com

Start your smile journey today!
Scan to book a complimentary consult.

75 Post Office Park
Wilbraham
413-675-7570
www.mypoportho.com

Dr. Ana Serrenho
100% locally owned and operated

Available evenings
and Saturdays

EARLY DEADLINES

In observance of Memorial Day, there will be an **EARLY AD DEADLINE**

To advertise, place your ad no later than **NOON**

Thursday, May 21

– Thank you!

A TURLEY PUBLICATION
www.turley.com

DL&G TREE



- Tree Removal
- Structural Pruning
- Crane Service
- Storm Damage
- Stump Grinding
- Lot Clearing

Give us a call today for your free estimate and tree evaluation by a ISA certified arborist

DL&G TREE

413-478-4212
dlandgtree.com



INSURED AND CERTIFIED

VIEWPOINTS

SOCIAL SECURITY Matters
By Russell Gloor

I want to do everything right when I claim Social Security

Dear Rusty:
I will be 62 in two years. I plan on signing up for SS at age 62, but I have heard there are details that are important when signing up. When it comes time, I want to make sure I do everything right. Can you help me understand?

Signed: Claiming Soon

Dear Claiming Soon:
Deciding when to claim your Social Security benefit is a decision you should make only after careful consideration of your personal circumstances. And details are, indeed, important. For example, if you claim at age 62 (when you first become eligible), your monthly SS benefit will be only 70% of the amount you would get by waiting until age 67 to claim. And there are other considerations as well, including:

If you are still working and claim at 62, you will be subject to Social Security's Annual Earnings Test (AET) which limits how much you can earn from working while collecting early SS benefits. The earnings limit changes each year, and for 2026 it is \$24,480. If the annual limit after you claim early is exceeded, SS will take back \$1 in benefits for every \$2 you are over the limit. And, if your work earnings substantially exceed the annual limit, you may even be temporarily ineligible for early SS benefits (until you either stop working full time or reach your SS full retirement age). FYI, the AET lasts until you reach your FRA (age 67).

The benefit reduction for claiming SS early is permanent. After you claim, you will only get increases for Cost-of-Living Adjustments (COLA) which occur annually according to inflation. FYI, the average annual COLA adjustment is about 2.5%.

If you are married, the reduced benefit you get by claiming early will potentially be the basis of your spouse's survivor benefit if you pass first. Surviving spouse benefits are based on the amount you are receiving at your death, thus waiting longer for a higher personal benefit may also

provide your spouse with a larger survivor benefit as your widow.

If you wait longer than age 62, your monthly benefit will continue to increase (by approximately 6% per year) until you reach your FRA, when you get 100% of the amount you are entitled to from a lifetime of working. FYI, you can even wait longer - up to age 70 - to claim an even higher monthly amount (8% more for each year of delay after FRA). At age 70, your SS benefit would be about 75% more than your age 62 benefit amount.

If you haven't already done so, I suggest setting up your personal online "my Social Security" account at www.ssa.gov/myaccount to see what your SS benefits are estimated to be at various ages. Then, when you are closer to age 62, contact us again to talk about your specific personal circumstances at the time, and we can provide you with everything you need to know about applying for Social Security.

In the end, when claiming your Social Security benefits, you should consider your financial need, your health and life expectancy, your plans for working, and your marital status. We commend you for exploring this well in advance of becoming eligible and we will be here to assist when it is time for you to apply.

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

Letters to the Editor
For the 12th Hampden District, a public servant who shows up

To the Editor:

When you get paid to do a job, you show up. That's how life works. If you don't, you get fired. Yet when it comes to the 12th Hampden District, Representative Angelo Puppulo Jr. gets paid a handsome sum of \$20,468 per year to head a committee that doesn't even legislate.

In a 2024 report, "The Boston Globe" reported that the House Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs (of which Puppulo is Chair) was one of 12 committees that neither considered a bill nor held a hearing during the 2023-2024 legislative session. Puppulo was the only one of the committee leaders who didn't respond to the "Globe's" request for comment about his committee's work.

When asked about the House Committee in a 2026 interview with 22 News, Puppulo stated, "We meet on a regular basis. We just had a meeting two weeks ago with the National Conference of State Legislators, the NCSL, where we talked about different stuff relative to state issues and federal government issues. Again, all of that comes into that nexus relative to intergovernmental affairs. So, we're quite busy."

If the House Committee is "quite busy", as Puppulo claims, why did they go an en-

tire legislative session without getting any work done?

An elected official failing to perform his role, let alone refusing to give any sort of explanation as to why that is, is outrageous. The committee was created in 2023 to identify federal funding opportunities for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. In that same Globe article, when pressed about the topic, Puppulo didn't provide any examples of federal dollars the committee had identified or obtained.

All of this speaks to a deeper rot at the heart of the problem; leaders not holding themselves accountable to their constituents, lining their own pockets with stipends from no-show jobs. It's no surprise that, in 2023, an analysis by FiscalNote found that the Massachusetts Legislature is the least efficient of all 50 states. The enactment rate for that year was 0.2 percent. The second most inefficient state in the country, Minnesota, sat at a rate of 1.39 percent.

In contrast to this stands Michael Lachenmeyer, Puppulo's challenger in the 2026 midterm elections. Two major pillars of his campaign are accessibility and government transparency. If elected, Michael plans to end the public records exemptions that shield the Legislature, Governor, and Judiciary from scrutiny. When surveyed by The Boston

Globe on the subject matter, just 12% of legislators said they believe they should be subjected to Massachusetts' public records law. Is this the kind of attitude we want from our public servants?

Incumbent Angelo Puppulo's lackluster track record doesn't exist in a vacuum. It is the product of a political culture in the Commonwealth that silos politicians away from the very people they're supposed to serve. This attitude goes against Michael Lachenmeyer's very ethos as a political candidate. On his platform page, Lachenmeyer states that he seeks to maintain regular district office hours and host bi-yearly town halls. Getting direct input about constituents' concerns is a top priority.

"I believe public service should be rooted in transparency, accessibility, and independence from special interests. Throughout this campaign and afterward, I will hold myself to the same standards I expect from Beacon Hill," reads Lachenmeyer's platform.

The 12th Hampden District deserves a representative who holds himself accountable to those they serve. This Sept. 1, let's make sure we make that happen.

Cayla Bartosz Wilbraham

A fun afternoon with youth and pickleball

To The Editor:

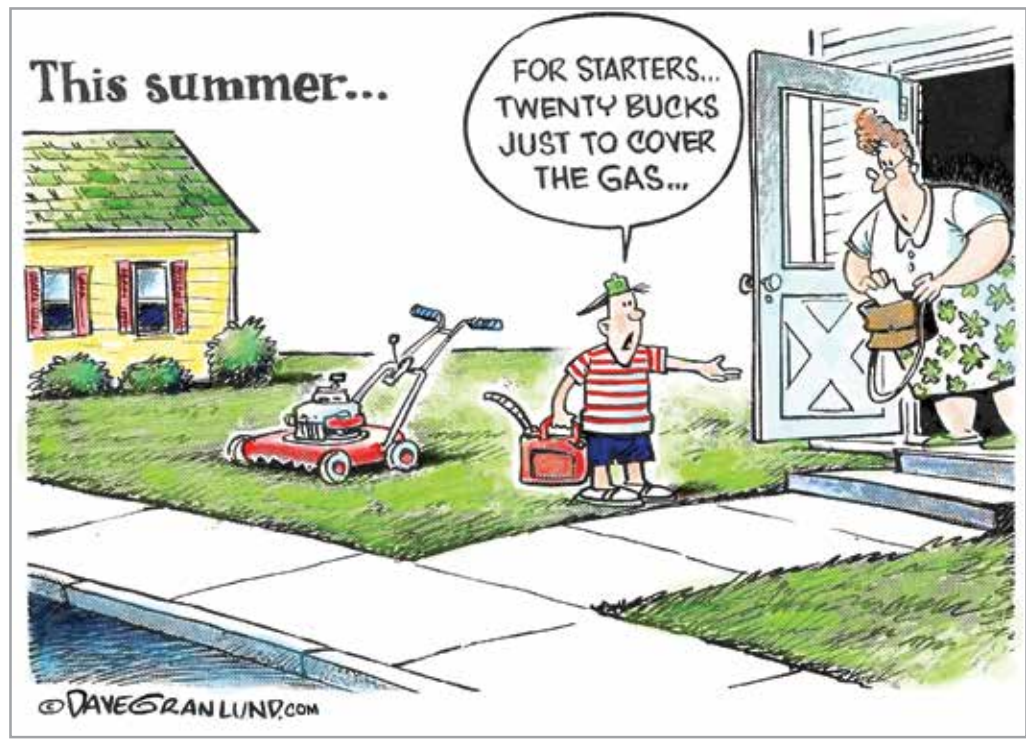
I just wanted to share a very enjoyable experience of pickleball play with three young men at Memorial School outside courts during school vacation. It seems like

we hear of all the wrong our youth are doing but this day put all those rumors to rest.

These young men were so very personable, social and accommodating to us seniors that play there regularly (even let us win some games)! It

was a pleasure playing with them and renewed my faith in our youth of today. Kudos to their parents.

Blessings, Erin Doyle-Gallerani, Wilbraham



The Garden Lady takes on spring bulb woes

Debi, who gardens in Hardwick, reached out to the Garden Lady with concerns over her daffodils.

They didn't bloom well this year, and she wonders if they need fertilizer.

"Dear Garden Lady, sorry to bother you in this busy season but our daffodils aren't doing well. I'm guessing they need food. What would you suggest?"

I am happy to answer your question! There are typically four reasons why daffodils don't bloom.

Probably the first mistake gardeners make is removing the foliage too soon after the flowers go by. Foliage needs about six-eight weeks of ripening before it can be removed.

While it is still green, it is photosynthesizing and making energy for next year's flowers.

It can get unsightly as it

starts to yellow and finally turn brown and dry up, but we must be patient.

It is ready when it comes off with a gentle tug. Some gardeners get strategic with nearby plants so that the eye moves away from the foliage and to another plant taking the stage in full bloom.

Another reason why daffodils may be stingy with their flowers is that the clumps are overgrown and need to be divided. Wait until the foliage has turned brown, then dig up the bulbs, pry them apart and replant them twice their width from one another and about two to three times their height deep.

I recommend using a

pointed shovel, not a trowel. Sometimes they can be down deep and you want to make sure you get the bulb out intact.

Do this while the foliage is brown so that you can find them. While it may feel "off" to be replanting in early summer, it is a perfectly fine time to do it.

Debi's bulbs could also need fertilizer, like she suggested. A sprinkling of granular fertilizer with low nitrogen, but sufficient phosphorus and potassium for blooming and rooting, respectively, would be ideal.

The two best times to feed are when the bulbs are up a few inches and now, just past bloom. Daffodils do require less fertilizer than tulips and

hyacinths, and sometimes bloom for years without the addition of fertilizer.

I am wondering if the trees or the ground cover adjacent to Debi's daffodils were fertilized with a high nitrogen blend and it affected the bulbs? I have a few daffodils near an apple tree that is close to my compost pile, where I mix chicken bedding with vegetable scraps, etc.

I think the high nitrogen run-off from the pile affected my blooming, just as an example. Of five possible clumps I had a measly two flowers. Bone meal, high in phosphorus, is in order to rebalance the soil.

Knowing Debi's sun exposure, I don't think this is an issue, but it is worth the mention for other readers who may struggle with sparse blooms. Daffodils won't bloom in deep shade. Dappled sunlight is fine.

Planting under deciduous

trees is also fine. If you think shade is the culprit, wait until the foliage ripens and move them using the guidelines I provided for bulbs that are overcrowded.

I sure hope one of these suggestions will help your daffodils regain their former glory!

Rose, who reads the column in the Ware River News, was concerned that a number of her hyacinths were broken off at ground level when just buds, and she wondered what or who could be the culprit be.

"This is so disheartening, I don't want to even grow them any more."

I was astounded to hear this, because the same thing happened to me in one of my gardens at Old Sturbridge Village where I have a multi red, white and blue planting of hyacinths and tulips. Grooming last week yielded at least 10

Please see **GARDEN**, page 10

The Wilbraham-Hampden TIMES

We Want to Hear From You

EDITOR
Kristin Rivers
krivers@turley.com

ADVERTISING SALES
Jocelyn Walker
jwalker@turley.com

SPORTS EDITOR
Greg Scibelli
sports@turley.com

The Wilbraham-Hampden Times is published every Thursday by Turley Publications, Inc., 24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069. Telephone (413) 283-8393, Fax (413) 289-1977.

WEB
wilbrahamhampden.times.turley.com

PHONE
(413) 283-8393

ADDRESS
24 Water Street
Palmer, MA 01069

Turley Publications, Inc.
www.turley.com

Turley Publications, Inc. cannot assume liability for the loss of photographs or other materials submitted for publication. Materials will not be returned except upon specific request when submitted.

Editorial Policy

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

Correction Policy

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

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

Election letters to the editor welcome

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

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

Campaign news

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

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

Life in &

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

WILBRAHAM HAMPDEN

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 krivers@turley.com



OPRO Gala

Congratulations to the Old Post Road Orchestra (OPRO) on an extremely successful and well-attended 40th Anniversary Gala!

Honored at this event was the orchestra's founding member, Malita Brown, who received a citation from the House of Representatives and Rep. Angelo Puppolo (presented by his Legislative Asst. Cherie Spinks) along with a presentation by Wilbraham Selectboard member Sue Bunnell, on behalf of Town Administrator Nick Breault, declaring April 17, 2026 officially as Orchestra Day in Wilbraham.

Members of OPRO were decked out in their finest to celebrate this milestone anniversary and welcomed donors, business advertisers, and audience members to a pre-concert reception.

Guests enjoyed refreshments (provided by the Friends of the Hampden Library and OPRO) as they mingled with the musicians. Students from the MRHS Key club graciously provided assistance with the pre-concert reception. Conductor and Music Director Lexie Black gave a short overview of the evening's program, noting that Scheherazade was chosen because it was one of Brown's favorite pieces!

It was an evening that will long be remembered .. a unique tribute to one individual's vision brought to fruition and still thriving after 40 years in existence.

With the continued financial support of local businesses, cultural councils, concert sponsors, and individual donors, OPRO will continue its mission of bringing quality orchestral music to Wilbraham and the surrounding communities.

On Friday, June 12, at 7:30 pm, OPRO will travel to the Knights of Columbus, 236 Main St in Somers, CT.

Won't you please join us for our final concert of the season ... "Cue the Orchestra: A Night on Broadway!"



Submitted photos and caption Elaine Gernux



THIS PAGE IS BROUGHT TO YOU AS A COMMUNITY SERVICE BY:

GET YOUR BUSINESS NOTICED!



Advertise in your LOCAL COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER
 Contact Jocelyn for more information
 413-283-8393 • jwalker@turley.com

FORUM from page 1

dents would need to consider. Another future public forum is to be determined.

This committee was appointed by the Selectboard to evaluate options for the building's future after municipal operations were moved to 85 Wilbraham Rd. in late 2025.

Readers can learn more by also visiting oldtown-future-dialogue.lovable.app/#facts.

The Options

The options were broken down into four decision pathways.

Pathway number one was labeled as "Wait and Do Nothing," meaning deferred action.

"The building remains vacant and is maintained at a minimum level. The default outcome if no decision is made — included as a baseline against which all other pathways should be measured," it reads. "The Town retains ownership and takes no active steps toward renovation, sale, or demolition. The building remains vacant with minimum maintenance to prevent immediate hazard."

Pathway number two would be the town to retain ownership and pursue several possible ideas for the building's use. They include the following, along with the key challenges for these ideas.

Community/Civic Center: proposed use as a community center, senior center, cultural programs, civic gathering or event space

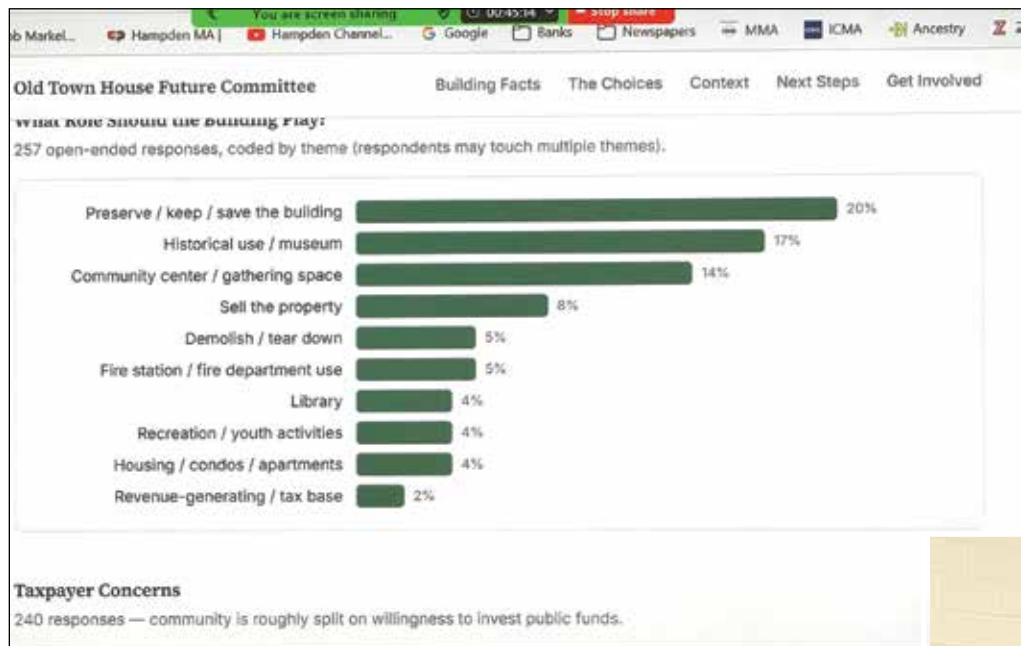
The key challenge being this.

"Requires \$8.9 million capital investment. With the \$8.3 million Fire Station renovation already committed, plus outstanding school debt, \$1.2 million water district debt, recent Senior Center investments (\$140K roof/windows/septic + \$250K HVAC + \$40K ADA bathrooms), and there is the potential in the near future for a multi-million dollar Middle School renovation or new construction," it reads. "The taxpayer's capacity for an additional multi-million-dollar capital project would be extremely limited. The former Thornton Burgess School already serves many of these functions."

Mixed-Use Adaptive Re-use: proposed use would be split two ways: ground floor: civic/cultural/small business and upper floors: residential, with a preference for senior or workforce housing

The key challenge here was this.

"Zoning amendment needed; Title V septic capacity must support residential density; community acceptance uncertain," it reads. "Financial upside: Strong developer interest likely with housing tax credit financing; Historic Tax Credits available if National Register listing is pursued. The recent passage of the ADU bylaw (2025 ATM) suggests Town Meet-



This slide depicts community survey results on the role the Old Town House could play in Hampden.

ing may be receptive to housing-related zoning changes."

Small Business/Shared Workspace Hub: proposed use would be as a professional office, co-working space, incubator or small commercial tenants

The key challenge here.

"Zoning barrier is material; market demand for co-working in a rural community of 5,000 needs careful assessment," It reads. "May work better as a ground-floor component of Option B than as a standalone use."

Another concern here is an overlay or special permit would be needed as commercial uses is not permitted by right in terms of zoning.

Institutional/Nonprofit Use: proposed use as nonprofit organization, cultural institution, historical society, health services or educational use.

The key challenge for this idea had a few factors.

"Finding a nonprofit with both the right mission and the financial capacity to take on an \$8.9 million rehabilitation is the core question. Any solicitation should require demonstrated access to capital and include a ground lease structure retaining Town ownership," it reads.

Fire Station, meaning a new fire station on a combined two-acre campus. Its proposed use would be to demolish the Old Town House, but preserve the Colonial Revival facade) and construct a new purpose-built fire station and civic space on the combined Lot #17 + Lot #18.

The key challenges would be these.

"Requires reconsideration of \$8.3 million fire station project already approved. Political complexity; demolition of historic structure (mitigated by facade preservation); total project cost estimated \$10.4 to \$15.7 million; additional funding needed \$2.1 to \$7.4 million beyond already-authorized debt," it reads. "Requires formal feasibility study before meaningful comparison to the approved fire station project."

Public-Private Partnership - Sale Leaseback, meaning a developer rehabilitates the

building and the town leases it back for offices

The proposed use here would be a "developer purchases and rehabilitates" the Old Town House with town input and "leases it back to the Town for municipal offices and community use."

"Town offices return to 625 Main Street. Thornton Burgess School (85 Wilbraham Rd) sold, returning property to tax rolls," it reads.

Key challenge here was this.

"Requires sale of Thornton Burgess School to fund the leaseback; lease terms must be carefully structured; Town is a tenant rather than owner during lease period; prevailing wage exemption requires Town Counsel confirmation. Most structurally complex option," it reads. "At lease conclusion, the Town retains the fully renovated building. Requires M.G.L. Ch. 30B compliance for both the sale and the lease; Town Meeting authorization required for both transactions."

Pathway number three, meanwhile, would be to sell to a private owner by the town transferring ownership to a private party for residential reuse or redevelopment.

"Most legally uncertain; community opposition to demolition would be substantial; irreversible if demolished. Unlikely to emerge as a preferred direction," it reads. "Financial note: Highest potential one-time sale proceeds."

Pathway number four would be a full demolition and the site would be cleared for future use.

"The only irreversible op-

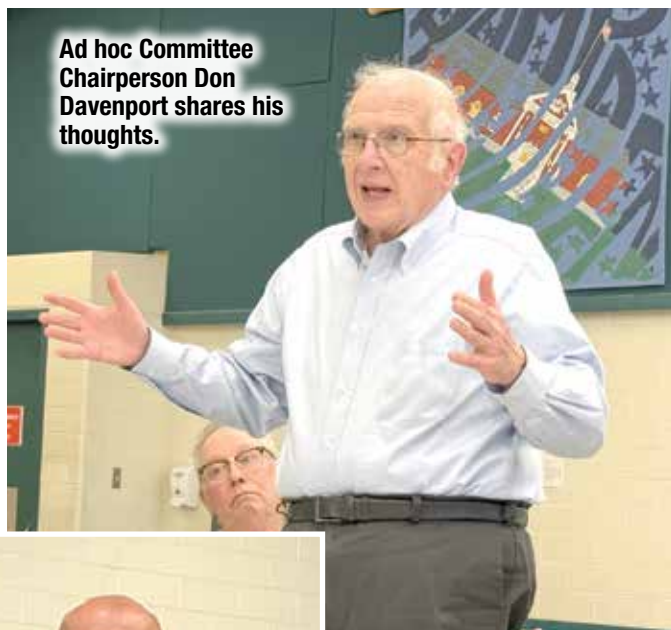
tion. Estimated total demolition cost: \$583,000-\$833,000, including ~\$343,000 asbestos abatement, building demolition, foundation removal, disposal fees, environmental permitting, site restoration, and cy pres legal proceeding. Not a cost-free alternative to rehabilitation," it reads. "Community survey: only 5% of respondents favored demolition. Included for completeness and transparency."

Community Survey Results

For this portion, 287 responses were collected between March 3 and April 14, with this area a topic of major concern among residents attending the forum, as many felt there should have been more community input.

Through this pool, surveyors shared what role they thought the building should play, with the following results.

- Preserve/keep/save the building: 20%
- Historical use/museum: 17%
- Community center/gathering space: 14%
- Sell the property: 8%
- Demolish/tear down: 5%
- Fire station/fire department use: 5%
- Library: 4%
- Recreation/youth activities: 4%
- Housing/condos/apartments: 4%
- Revenue-generating/tax base: 2%



Ad hoc Committee Chairperson Don Davenport shares his thoughts.



Joe Sibilia, a member of the Old Town House Committee, answers an question.

- Taxpayer concerns were as follows.
- Cost/budget/waste concerns: 29%
- Taxes already too high/cannot afford more: 22%
- Willing to invest/worthy of spending: 22%
- Other priorities first (fire station, schools): 12%
- No taxpayer dollars/private investment only: 9%
- Need a clear plan before committing funds: 5%
- On what should be preserved, the results were these.
- Exterior/facade: 29%
- Historical character/charm/heritage: 17%

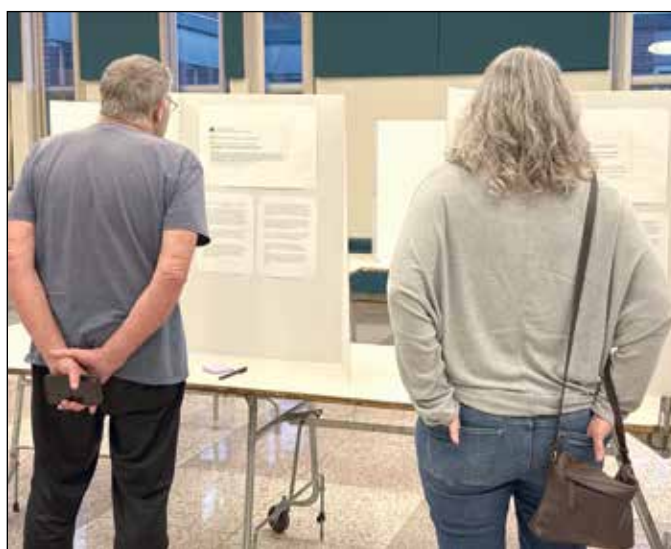
- Entire building: 14%
- Nothing: 14%
- Auditorium/Melville Room: 6%

Other Notes

These are other notes regarding the building's history.

- Not on the Historical Register
- Rehab estimate by Tighe & Bond per a 2023 report was \$8.9 million
- Full ADA-compliance required for any restoration over \$100,000
- There would need to be an asbestos abatement, an escalated estimate of \$343,000
- The FY25 assessed value is \$1,462,200
- Utilities are public water, on-site septic, no municipal sewer
- Current zoning is R-4 Residential

Post-forum, residents were encouraged to share additional ideas and thoughts and review the poster boards outlining the pathways and choices.



Residents review the posterboards after the public forum.



A shot of the audience in attendance.

ADVERTISING SALES **HELP WANTED**

Do you want to work in your community helping local businesses connect with their customers?
Do you want a career supporting local journalism, which tells the unique stories of our communities?
If so, then join our team! Turley Publications is looking for an outgoing, energetic person interested in selling advertising for our community newspapers. The right candidate will assume an established territory with a portfolio of customers.

You must be a self-starter with excellent communication and organizational skills. Basic computer skills are required. Previous print sales experience is preferred but we will train the right candidate.

We are a locally owned family business, offers a competitive commission structure, 401k, and health plan.

Send resume & cover letter to:
Jamie Joslyn
24 Water Street
Palmer, MA 01069
Email: jamie@turley.com

LOWER PRICES TO BOOST YOUR BUDGET! **INFLATION** **PRICE BUSTERS** **PRICES IN RED ARE AT OR BELOW LAST YEAR'S PRICES!**

USDA INSP. FRESH BONELESS CENTER CUT PORK LOIN CHOPS or ROAST \$2.77 lb	USDA INSP. FRESH BONELESS BEEF TENDERLOINS CUT FREE \$12.98 lb	USDA INSP. FRESH CHICKEN THIGHS 10 LB BAG \$1.35 lb
USDA INSP. FRESH SMOKED PORK SHOULDER PICNIC \$1.99 lb	USDA INSP. FRESH BONE-IN BEEF SHORT RIBS FLANKEN STYLE THIN CUT \$8.99 lb	USDA INSP. FRESH WHOLE CHICKEN TWIN PAK \$1.49 lb
USDA INSP. FROZEN BONE-IN PORK LOIN LOIN END CHOPS \$1.99 lb	USDA INSP. STOREMADE BONELESS CAROLINA GOLD MARINATED CHICKEN THIGHS \$3.69 lb	USDA INSP. FROZEN PEPPERIDGE FARM CHOCOLATE FUDGE LAYER CAKE 19.6 OZ \$4.99 ea
USDA INSP. SLICED FROM OUR DELI VIRGINIA HAM \$4.44 lb	USDA INSP. STOREMADE BONELESS KOREAN BBQ MARINATED PORK BUTT STRIPS \$3.35 ea	USDA INSP. FRESH COAST TO COAST KITCHEN MINI EMPANADAS PIZZA, HAM, CHEESEBURGER \$2.99 ea
USDA INSP. SLICED FROM OUR DELI PROVOLONE CHEESE \$4.44 lb	USDA INSP. GROUND FRESH DAILY DIET LEAN GROUND BEEF 5 LB BAG \$5.29 lb	USDA INSP. FROZEN FARM RAISED TALAPIA FILLETS \$3.99 ea

GREAT ON THE GRILL

SALE DATES: 5/14/26-5/20/26

90 Meat Outlet
413-737-1288
www.90meat.com

HOURS: Mon - Wed 8-4
Thurs 8-6 • Fri 8-6 • Sat 8-3

BUY DIRECT FOR SAVINGS • SELECTION • SERVICE

Magnolia & Maple Studios opens in Wilbraham

By Kristin Rivers
Editor
krivers@turley.com

WILBRAHAM - Magnolia & Maple Studios, a pottery studio, opened its doors in Wilbraham with a grand opening event on April 18.

The studio is located at 6 Burt Lane, Suite 103, and overseen by Lexie Burke and Michelle Stallworth.

They offer Paint Your Own pieces for purchase on Sundays from 1 to 4 p.m., private event bookings on Thursdays through Sundays, Hand-building workshops and classes, Wheel Go For It classes on Thursdays and Sundays to try out the pottery wheel and an Intro to Wheel six-week course.

Some of their recent classes included making your own book vase, a berry bowl, a creation for Mother's Day and a Kids Pottery Class during school vacation week.

Their upcoming classes are Date Night BYOBs on May 15 and 29, a Garden Stakes Building Workshop on May 16 and creating a Wall Envelope on May 30.

The next Intro to Wheel Course is on June 2 and June 4, with this iteration available on Tuesday mornings or Thursday evenings.

Memberships are also available for experienced potters to have access to the studio from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. daily at \$150 a month.

Burke said she was excited about the turnout, calling it a community opening event to give residents an opportunity to check out the studio, create their own art pieces and check out their upcoming class offerings and workshops.

"We have basically everything a pottery studio could ask for. Glazes, lab rollers. It's targeted towards anyone, like younger kids, older kids. It's like a good combination for everyone, so it's very community-oriented. We're right in the heart of Wilbraham, so we're hoping that this brings people together," Burke said.



The community gathered inside the pottery studio to work on their own paint their own creations.

Burke was born and raised in Wilbraham, while Stallworth is originally from Mississippi and moved up north seven years ago and has been here ever since.

Stallworth shared what inspired the business.

"I was laid off from my previous job. I was just in Corporate America and I just didn't want to be a number anymore and put my heart and soul into something after I just got laid off. So, I decided to open a pottery studio which was my passion, and I knew there was another potter in Wilbraham that my wife actually bought some of her pieces," Stallworth said. "So, sent her a message and was like, 'Hey, I want to open a pottery studio. Are you interested?' Didn't even know her and she was like, 'Yes, absolutely!' and here we are."

Burke added how both women had a passion for pottery and were over corporate life.

"So, we just wanted to do what we want and enjoy it," Burke said.

"We both have a passion for community and offering the arts to the community and just having small and

intimate and eventually expand into other arts and mediums and things like that," Stallworth said. "So, we both have this vision that was really deep-seeded in the beginning."

Stallworth said the studio is open by appointment and residents can go online to sign up for a class.

"And then, generally, if you're in a class, you can come to our open studio times that we have available. Anyone that has a class or a member will have access to our calendar, but for the public, for walk-ins, we're generally open on Sundays from 1 to 4 p.m. so they can come in and paint your own," Stallworth said.

Burke was also thrilled to see the community try out their own pieces and connect.

"We're definitely so excited, especially because community support is so important to us so having people support us and want to create something with us, hand build something with us, it's very mindful and just community and connection," Burke said. "That's what we want exactly for this town."

Stallworth also empha-



Michelle Stallworth and Lexie Burke pose for a photo inside Magnolia & Maple Studios in Wilbraham.



Wilbraham vases also for sale.

sized the studio providing a creative outlet as well.

"Pottery is a great escape. It's a good passion, it's a good therapy-type thing. You're working with your hands," Stallworth said.

Burke also reflected on her painting.

"It's like therapy for me. I stop thinking and it's like the world gets quiet, so that's what I hope we bring to the community is that slow down a little bit, come and create something with us," Burke said. "We're so in this world that's rushed and fast-paced. It's nice to create something with your hands and take it all in."

Burke and Stallworth encourage the community to stop by.

"We're excited to bring this to the community," Burke said. "We're hoping to bring the community together through art."



A close-up shot of the pottery piece Lexie Burke was working on.

"It's a privilege to be in Wilbraham. It's such a community-based town, it's such a supportive town. Since being here, I've been supportive of local businesses, I love the vibe of Wilbraham and I'm just so glad to be a part of that," Stallworth said. To learn more, visit magnoliaandmaplestudios.com and visit their Facebook and Instagram pages at @MagnoliaandMapleStudios.

ELECTION from page 1

libraries and I love this community. Ultimately, I think those are the most important qualifications.

What inspired you to run for this position?

I want our library to be an example to others in the Commonwealth of how a small library has and will continue to achieve great things for their communities. In these tight budgetary times, it is important to have strong advocates, or we risk losing an essential component of our community. Along with the unique

backgrounds of the other Library Trustees and a strong WFOL, we can secure our future.

What do you consider to have been the successes of the Library Trustee and what would you like to improve moving forward?

Personally, I think our greatest achievement this past year was selecting the new library director, Melissa Harter. I am honored to have



Ronnie Haislip-Hansberry

been involved with the process. I think we all need to have a stronger understanding of how the budget affects the library, locally and statewide.

What do you envision accomplishing for the town of Wilbraham during your term as Library Trustee?

Without proper funding, we can lose certification. I want to ensure that never happens under my watch.

Highway Dept. Skilled Laborer / Truck Driver

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

Highway Dept. Seasonal Laborer

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

For further information, please contact Richard Ayer, Highway Superintendent, at 508-867-2451, or via email at Highway@newbraintree.gov.

A.A./E.O.E.

Top Floor LEARNING

TUTORING AVAILABLE
Meet Your Professional & Educational Goals

Tutors Needed

For English Language Learners, HiSet English, Writing & Math Computer/Tech

April Showers Bring MAY BASKETS!
The May Basket Raffle begins May 1st
Baskets displayed in the Palmer Public Library
Tickets on sale in the Library, Top Floor Learning's office, and in your mailbox
\$5 per ticket or 5 for \$20
Drawing June 1st LIVE at Top Floor Learning

- Basic Computer Use
- Resumé Building & Updating
- English Language Learning
- GED/HiSET Preparation
- Reading, Writing, Math
- Citizenship Exam
- SAT, TOEFL, etc. Test Prep

Starting April 8, tutors will be available from 1:30 to 6:30 pm on Wednesdays

Contact Us For More Information
NEW PHONE NUMBER **413-544-6600**
email: director@topfloorlearning.org
<https://topfloorlearning.org/>

We're on Facebook!



Ry Barb Turcotte

Sometimes you can tell a lot about a person from their career which is certainly the case with Mia Gorecki. Mia has worked at the Baystate Health Foundation, the fundraising arm of the hospital, for eight years. Though she's a coordinator for all their events, her specialty is Pediatrics. She's instrumental with the Children's Miracle Network events, such as the Radiothon and also the UMASS Dance Marathon. Though this event is mostly organized by the students, she helps them acquire sponsorships and guides them with the protocols of the school. She has an abundance of energy, so can relate to the students while showing them the importance of charitable giving.

Mia is definitely one who gives of herself a hundred percent and is always looking for ways she can give back. She, a newlywed of nearly two years, has chosen a partner with the same values and beliefs. Both being animal lovers, shared while driving they saw three wandering pups. She made him stop for each, making sure they were not injured and looked well cared for. She laughed saying he jokingly threatened her at the last one that he was going to leave her with the dog because he needed to get to his appointment.

Mia approached me in December wondering if we had a program where I work, that would give residents that didn't have relatives a Christmas gift. After checking with my director, we realized that we had fifteen residents that would benefit from this 'Secret Santa' idea. Needless to say, it was a joyous experience being able to create a magical

Christmas for these folks thanks to Mia's idea and her donation. A co-worker and I got to spread the cheer as we poked our heads in their doors yelling, Merry Christmas then leaving the gift.

When meeting for this story, Mia thought we'd be discussing ways of creating a program whereas we could do Christmas gifts each year. But knowing the things she does to give back to others, I wanted to tell her story, so though very bashful about this, she humbly revealed some things. Guess we'll need another meeting for the gift program!

Some personal things Mia's done is help place animals in loving homes through the fostering program at Dakin Humane Society. She also shared when she saw a young woman with a baby outside a Dollar Store crying, knowing the woman was overwhelmed, offered to buy her lunch while she waited for her ride, but the woman declined. She said she often will give a gift card to someone she sees who is struggling. Such Random Acts of Kindness! She describes it as 'feeding her soul'.

Mia has allowed me to share a very personal and painful experience with you. She tragically lost her younger brother when he was just eighteen and rather than allowing that to make her bitter, she and her family decided to create an academic scholarship fund in his name. Her brother, while in high school had excelled in lacrosse and basketball so these scholarships were intended to help young athletes that weren't able to obtain other scholarships, therefore making it possible for them to realize their dreams of playing sports for

a college of their choice.

Mia described how after her brother's death, she went into a very dark, black hole and was not able to trust anyone except her very inner circle. She said it took a long time for her to be able to see the good in people, so by creating this fund it was instrumental in helping that process. For five years she helped her family organize basketball tournaments in his memory. They held them at both AIC and Minnechaug Regional High School as half court contests. They had up to 30 teams with 3 per team and was a huge success with enormous support.

Her husband has also unfortunately known the heartache of losing a sibling at a young age. For five years, they honored her memory by supporting the wonderful work at T.J. O'Connor Animal Shelter, with donations from whiffle ball tournaments.

These are examples of two amazing young people who have turned tragedies into something positive and by doing this it has opened up their hearts once again. Their cores are of giving people and luckily for them and all who benefited from their generousities, they have both become positive, as Mia explained, "Feeding their souls by helping others."

Hopefully you've not experienced their kind of tragedy and hopefully you will make them an example of spreading positivity, it truly is healing for you as well as the recipient. Thank you Mia, for trusting me with your story and thank you for being an example of kindness and inspiration for others!

If you'd like to share a Random Act of Kindness story or if this one has touched you, please contact me at bdt514@aol.com or 413-575-9385. Who knows, you might see your story. 'Just Cause' you witnessed, you did or maybe received something nice being done for you. See you soon with another Random Act of Kindness! ~ Barb

Wilbraham-Hampden Scholarship Foundation announces upcoming raffle



WILBRAHAM/HAMPDEN - Dear Hampden and Wilbraham Neighbors, Since 1961, the Wilbraham-Hampden Scholarship Foundation has been awarding scholarships to graduating seniors of Minnechaug Regional High School residing in Hampden and Wilbraham.

Last year, we proudly awarded 53 scholarships totaling a record \$101,750. To sustain our ongoing work, the Foundation depends on the generosity of people in our community. Our biggest fundraising initiative each year is our "Annual Spring Raffle."

This year we are again offering the convenience of two enclosed raffle tickets for \$25 each.

For a chance to win one of our wonderful prizes which have been generously donated, complete the ticket stubs and return them with a check payable to WHSF using the enclosed pre-addressed envelope prior to our Facebook Live drawing on Wednesday, May 27, 2026.

You can also enter by making a payment through PayPal using the QR code below or by visiting wilbraham-hampden-scholarshipfoundation.org/donate. Be sure to include your name, phone number and email address in the note field so that we may complete and enter your raffle tickets on your behalf.

If you would prefer to donate to the Wilbraham-Hampden Scholarship Foundation

in lieu of purchasing the raffle ticket, we will be most grateful for your contribution. Use the enclosed envelope to mail your donation or donate online at wilbraham-hampden-scholarshipfoundation.org/donate.

The Foundation is recognized under Section 501(c)(3) of the IRS code, making your contribution tax deductible.

We appreciate your support of our mission to assist the Minnechaug seniors from Hampden and Wilbraham in furthering their education. Please help us give a great send off to the deserving 2026 graduates of Minnechaug!

Sincerely,

The Board of the Wilbraham-Hampden Scholarship Foundation

Hampden Garden Club upcoming events

HAMPDEN - The Hampden Garden Club would like to announce the following upcoming events.

The Hampden Garden Club will be hosting Jacqueline Clark, the owner/operator of Garden Designs by Jacqueline, LLC on Thursday, May 21, at 7 p.m. Jacqueline has been gardening and lecturing for over 23 years and will be presenting her program "Gardening for Four Seasons".

Jacqueline specializes in design and monthly maintenance of all types of landscaping. The program will be at our NEW meeting location at the Town Hall (formerly Thornton W. Burgess Middle School), 85 Wilbraham Rd, Hampden, Room A7.

Guests are asked to use the Library Entrance. There is a \$5 fee for non-members of the garden club. New members are welcome! Membership fee for the year is \$15

and includes admission to all programs.

The Hampden Garden Club's Memorial Day Plant Sale will be held on Monday, May 25, at the Academy Hall on 616 Main Street from 8 a.m. till Noon. There will be a wide variety of plants to purchase.

Make sure to stop by and check out our raffle prize table and purchase raffle tickets for a chance to win.

ECI Technologies. Route 20 Bar & Grille host Community Fundraiser to support Veterans

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

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

while enjoying a lively and welcoming atmosphere.

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

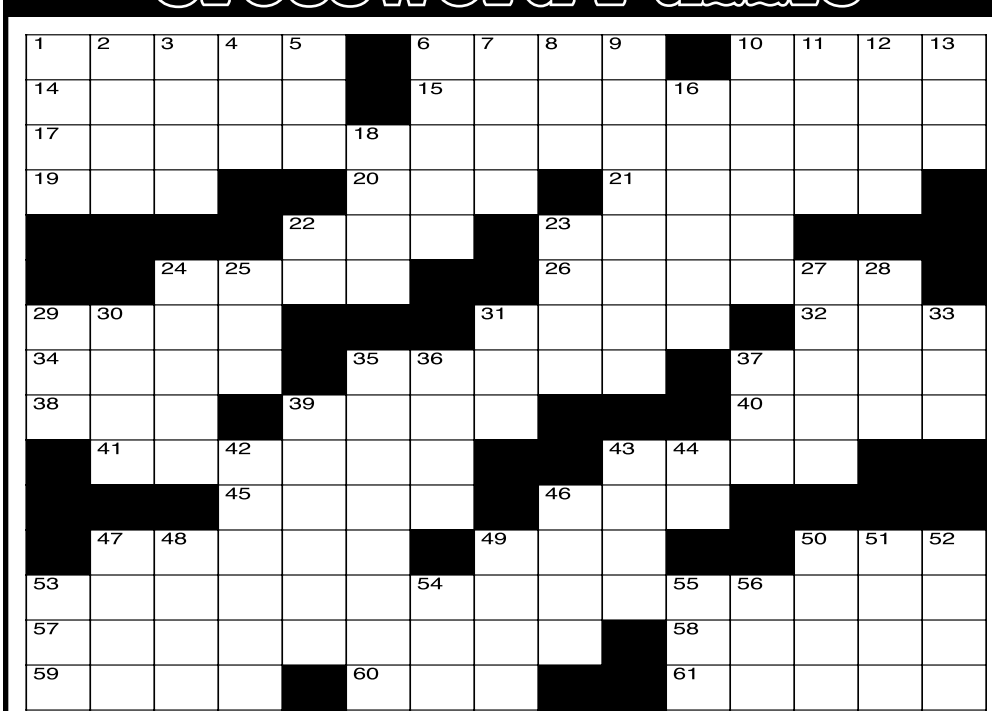
The Wilbraham Veterans Assistance Fund provides immediate, short-term financial assistance to local veterans and their dependents facing hardship. Funds are used to help cover essential needs such as food, transportation, and emergency heating or utility expenses, offering crit-

ical support during difficult times.

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

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

Crossword Puzzle



CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Notable casino destination
- 6. Current units
- 10. Roman military unit
- 14. American lizard
- 15. Fates
- 17. The Yankees have lots of these
- 19. Unhappy
- 20. Mimic
- 21. Remove from the record
- 22. Where cargo ships dock (abbr.)
- 23. A way to fight
- 24. Turfs
- 26. Contract
- 29. Country along the Arabian peninsula
- 31. Tree species
- 32. Pituitary gland secretion (abbr.)
- 34. Perfect
- 35. "Partner" to groans
- 37. Jewish calendar

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Animal jaws
- 2. Small water buffalo
- 3. An appliance has
- month
- 38. Where wrestlers work
- 39. Egotistical
- 40. Potted plants
- 41. Containers
- 43. Large, flightless birds
- 45. Part of a book
- 46. American spies
- 47. Pancakes made of buckwheat flour
- 49. Swiss river
- 50. Disfigure
- 53. Have surgery
- 57. Formal withdrawal
- 58. Early English council
- 59. Area units
- 60. 2,000 lbs.
- 61. Siskel and ___

one

- 4. Every
- 5. Largest English dictionary (abbr.)
- 6. Very skilled
- 7. No more than what is specified
- 8. Tire measurement
- 9. Towers
- 10. Forward
- 11. Jacob ___, American journalist
- 12. Vale
- 13. Former CIA
- 16. Middle Eastern nation
- 18. Exhausts
- 22. South Dakota
- 23. The complete duration of something
- 24. Kids love him
- 25. Singular
- 27. Cod genus
- 28. Mild yellow Dutch cheese

- 29. Resistance unit
- 30. Ancient kingdom near Dead Sea
- 31. Cast out
- 33. 60-minute periods
- 35. Most worn
- 36. European river
- 37. Atomic mass unit
- 39. Items of food
- 42. Body parts
- 43. Ireland
- 44. Partner to Pa
- 46. Sammy ___, songwriter
- 47. Dutch settler
- 48. Full-grown pike fish
- 49. Sun or solar disk
- 50. Minute arachnid
- 51. From a distance
- 52. A monthly expense
- 53. Young women's association
- 54. Brazilian state
- 55. Air freight provider
- 56. Pointed end of a pen

Cookbook Club at the WPL

WILBRAHAM - The Wilbraham Public Library Cookbook Club is meeting on Wednesday, June 3 at 6:30 p.m.

This month's selection is "Amrikan: 125 Recipes from the Indian American Diaspora" by Khushbu Shah.

Please let the library know what you're bringing when registering so we do not duplicate recipes. Cook-

ing is encouraged but not required for attendance. Copies of the book are available now at the Service Desk.

The Cookbook Club meets on the first Wednesday of every other month at 6:30 p.m.

This program is free and open to the public, and registration is required. For more information or to register, please call the library at 413-596-6141.

Memorial Day Plant Sale

HAMPDEN - The Hampden Garden Club is looking for perennial plant donations for their Memorial Day Plant Sale.

If you are looking to thin out your perennials, garden members will come and dig the plants you want to donate. Please contact Lil Fedora at 413-566-1137 to set up a dig day.

GARDEN from page 6

hyacinth buds that looked as if they were but off at ground level.

Although the experts say rodents could be the cause, the cut was almost perfect, not gnawed in any way, plus hyacinths contain natural de-

terrents making them rodent proof, typically. I did cultivate the bed awhile back, my thought being that I may have cut a few of them off under ground.

As the stems elongated, they could have forced the bud above ground even though it was already dis-

lodged, but the mystery remains. I'm sorry this happened, Rose, and I wish I had a definite answer for you, but at least know you are in good company with your hyacinth woes.

If anyone has any answers I would love to hear them!



Professional - Reliable - Fully Insured

Tree Trimming and Removal
Emergency Tree Work • Stump Grinding
Crane Service • Firewood Delivery

All Major Credit Cards Accepted
100% Financing Available

162 Sturbridge Road, Brimfield, MA 01010
508-641-5249 • office@robinsontreeservice.net
www.robinsontreeservice.net

SPORTS

A TURLEY PUBLICATION | www.turley.com

SEND US YOUR SPORTS SUBMISSIONS

www.sports.turley.com

Falcons lose tough battle with Agawam

AGAWAM – Agawam and Minnechaug boys lacrosse have quite a rivalry, and it has peaked this season with both teams having great seasons. But Agawam has been just a little bit bet-

ter so far, going to 10-1 this season after beating Minnechaug last Tuesday 6-4. Justin Lareau had two goals while four others had single scores for the Brownies. Drew Jennings and

Tommy Hutchseon had two goals each for the Falcons. Minnechaug is 11-4 this season. Agawam has yet to lose to an opponent in Western Mass. Their only loss has come against

Wachusett Regional, a Central Mass. team. Both teams are heading for the end of the regular season and could meet again in the Western Mass. tournament.



Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com
Joey Woytowicz looks for an open teammate.



Andrew Dolaher avoids a defender.



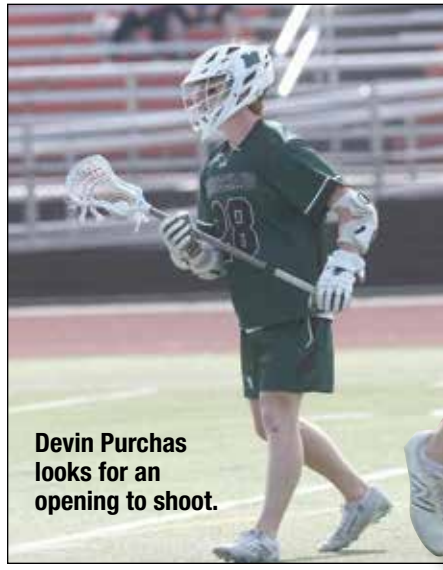
Liam Faneuff sends a pass away.



Kelly Balog winds up for a long throw.



Liam Metzger fields a ground ball.



Devin Purchas looks for an opening to shoot.



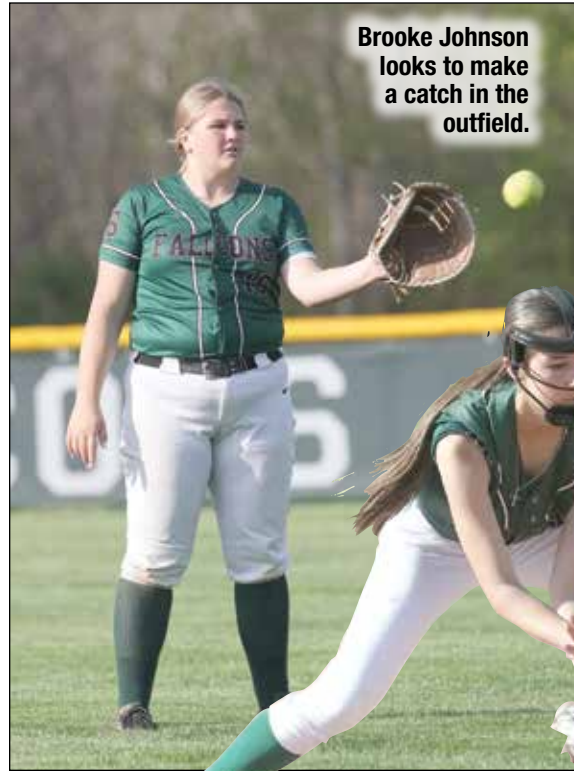
Liam Harrington runs up the field.



Drew Jennings gets ready to wind up for a shot.



Alexa Sherman sends a throw to second for a force.



Summer McInnes squares up the ground ball.



Abigail Camire sends home a pitch.

Girls lacrosse defeats Westfield

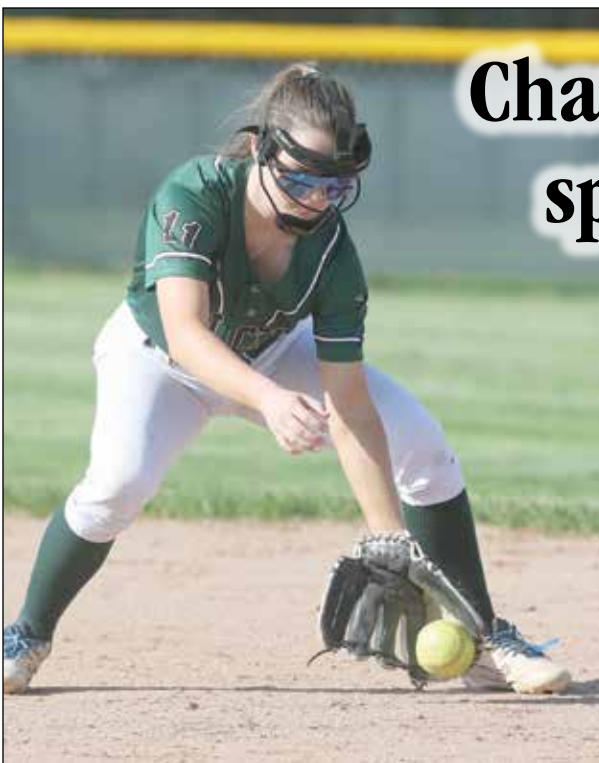
WILBRAHAM – Last Monday afternoon, Minnechaug Regional girls lacrosse won its fourth straight game, defeating Westfield 16-2 to improve to 10-3 on the season. The Falcons are now qualified for the state tournament. In the win over Westfield, Sophia Kozub had four goals while Peyton Lee added three goals. Nina Semanie had four saves in the matchup.

Minnechaug's remaining regular season games are against Northampton, East Longmeadow, and Longmeadow. The Falcons will hopefully also make the Western Mass. tournament, which is scheduled to take place sometime next week.

Chaug softball splits pair

WILBRAHAM – Last week, Minnechaug softball split a pair of games, losing to Agawam 13-8, but rebounding to defeat South Hadley 18-6. The Falcons now stand 10-6 on the season with two regular season games remaining. The Falcons will make the state tournament and will hope to make the Western Mass. tournament as well, which begins next week.

Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com



Gianna Fusco fields a grounder.

Veronica Ouimet looks to tag out a runner.



\$12.50 Each



Digital Photos

TURLEY PUBLICATIONS, INC. Purchase a photo that recently ran in one of our publications. Go to newspapers.turley.com/photo-request

SPORTS

This week in recreation

What to know about Spec Pond Beach

Dan Beauregard
Program Coordinator

WILBRAHAM - Summer is almost here, which means Spec Pond Beach will be opening soon. Here are some common questions we get about the Spec Pond Beach.

What are the hours for the beach? Spec Pond Beach will be opening on Saturday, June 13 with the beach season ending Sunday, August 16. Beach hours are 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. June 13 - Aug. 2 and 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Aug. 3 - Aug. 16, and the beach is open seven days a week, weather pending.

What does Spec Pond Beach offer? Spec Pond Beach has Amy Sparkle Splash Pad, bathrooms, changing rooms, concession stand, a small pavilion, docks and certified lifeguards on duty during beach hours. Additionally, the water is tested weekly



for quality and safety.

Where is the beach located? Spec Pond Beach is located at the Spec Pond Recreational Complex at 45C Post Office Park, Wilbraham off of Boston Road.

How much does it cost to enter Spec Pond Beach? Residents and non-residents can purchase season passes or a day pass for Spec Pond Beach. Day passes can be bought at the concession stand at the beach (cash only). For residents a day pass is \$4 for adults and teens 13+ and \$3 for children 12 and under and senior citizens 62+. For non-residents a day pass is \$6 for adults and teens 13+ and \$5 for children 12 and under and senior citizens 62+. Season Passes can be

purchased online until June 11th and in the WPRD Office or at the Concession Stand any time during the beach season.

Is fishing allowed? During open beach hours, fishing is not allowed from the shore or from the dock. Outside of beach hours (11 a.m. to 7 p.m.), fishing is permitted.

Can I use a kayak, canoe, or paddle board at the pond? During open beach hours, boating is not allowed from the shore or from the dock. Outside of beach hours (11 a.m. to 7 p.m.), boating is permitted.

For more information and to purchase your Season Pass online, please visit WilbrahamRec.com.

WSU softball wins conference title

WESTFIELD - After 10 trips to the Massachusetts State Collegiate Athletic Conference softball championship game, the top-seeded Westfield State University Owls finally cashed in when first year RF Lyla Dwyer pulled a ball through the hole on the left side infield and sophomore 3B Allysa Slack scored with a headfirst dive across the plate in the bottom of the ninth inning as the Owls scored a 1-0 extra innings win over #2 seed Worcester State on Sunday.

With the win, the Owls improve to 38-1 on the season, and the Owls earn the league's automatic bid to the NCAA Tournament. Westfield will be making its third-ever appearance in the big dance, but first since 1983. Westfield will learn their destination and opponent in the NCAA's in a live selection show on NCAA.com slated for Monday at 11.

Worcester's season comes to a close at 25-15.

The two teams duelled through seven innings scoreless at 0-0, an old-fashioned pitchers duel between the Owls Angelina Vartuli, who was named the tournament MVP, and Worcester's Peyton Maloney.

Worcester put one runner aboard in the top of the eighth on a single by Emma LaPoint, but Vartuli invoked a pair of pop ups to Slack at third to end the threat.

Westfield appeared to catch a break in the bottom of the eighth as Hannah Wodecki singled to left with one out, and the ball slipped past the fielder to put Wodecki at

second base, but Mia Alfonso popped to second and LaTour lined to center to go to the ninth scoreless.

Vartuli sent the Lancers down in order in the top of the ninth, with a pair of ground outs to Slack sandwiched around one to Sarah Hough at short.

Slack doubled to right center leading off the bottom half of the inning when the ball dropped between the center and right fielder after an apparent miscommunication, and after Caroline O'Donnell popped to right, Dwyer stepped in with one out, and slashed one pitch just foul down the third base line, before finding the hole for a base hit on the game winner.

Vartuli (W, 13-0) allowed six hits over nine innings, walking just one and fanning six for her 13th win of the season.

Worcester's Maloney (L, 10-6) matched her nearly pitch for pitch, working 8.1 innings, scattering 10 hits, and walking and striking out one against an Owls lineup that entered the weekend ranked third in the country in scoring offense at almost nine runs per game.

LaTour was 2-4 with a double and O'Donnell finished 2-3 with a walk to lead the Owl bats. Carisa Andrews was the lone repeat hitter for the Lancers, finished 2-4 with a stolen base. Bailey Tammaro's double in the fifth was the lone extra base hit for the Lancers.

Worcester put two runners aboard in the second before Vartuli got a pop up to end the inning. Andrews

made it as far as third in the seventh, but again Vartuli got a pop out to short to end the threat.

The Owls first true scoring chance came in the second inning after a one-out single by Kassidy LaTour followed by a Lancers error put two in scoring position. O'Donnell followed and stung a line drive back up the middle, hitting Slack who had no way to avoid the ball, causing a dead ball and sending LaTour back to third base instead of scoring the first run of the game. Maloney then escaped the threat by getting a pop up in foul territory.

In the fifth inning, the Owls put two aboard with two outs after a single into left by Rylie Camacho. Hough stepped in and laced a liner back up the middle forcing pinch runner Kalisa Pomfret to duck as she narrowly avoided getting drilled. She could only advance up to third base causing Camacho to overrun the bag at second in expecting the runner to be sent, but the Lancers were able to tag her out in a rundown before Pomfret could cross home.

Westfield wins the MAS-CAC tournament title for the first time since the league began a post-season tournament in 2001, though the Owls had played in 10 previous finals. Westfield lost as the #1 seed in 2024 and 2025, dropping two games in the championship round to Framingham at home in 2024, and falling to Worcester in the elimination semifinal in 2025.

EDUCATION

Minnechaug Regional High School Term 3 Honor Roll announced

WILBRAHAM - Minnechaug Regional High School recently named the third term honor roll for the 2025-2026 school year.

Grade P8 Honors: Martin Garcia, Jada Haqq, Rieland Kearney, Adeline Look, George Nutting, Peyton Salvat

Grade P8 High Honors: Nicholas Kennedy, Madeline Lee, Lyla Raymond, Jessica Soukup

Grade 9 Honors: Teddy Acquah, Raymond Adorno, Margaret Babbs, Evan Barcome, Joshua Branham, Nicholas Bretta, Benjamin Butts, Xavier Catellier, Emilia Connors, Nolan Costello, Ryan Criscitelli, Oliver Cunha, Madelyn D'Amore, Lacey Desjardins, Kayla Dooley, Liam Doyle, Dina Ferrantino, Charlotte Fitzgerald, Austin Fortune, Kathryn Fulton, Olivia Gaudreau, Valentino Gonzalez, Yusuf Gunaydin, Teaghan Haluch, Tegan Haluch, Benjamin Harpin, Max Harrigan, Cole Harris, Andriea Holder, Kate Holt, Ted Holt, Alexandra Jaslanek, Elizabeth Jourdain, Zahara Kibodya-Wilson, Maxxum Kowal, Kaitlyn Labadorf, Stephanie Labadorf, Jillian Lajeunesse, Sophie Laliberte, Willis Lam, Christie Lang, Lucas Lawrence, Alyvia Leonard, Owen Lucarelle, Ashley Manning, Brooklyn Manning, Elizabeth Maserati, Jackson McCullough, Aaron Mejia Santos, Logan Middleton, Abigail Mumblo, Michael Murray, Cohen Nelson, Evan Niemi, Brielle Nieves, Madeleine O'Sullivan, Olivia Parent, Kenisha Patel, Owen Piquette, David Quinn, Mason Quintana, Lara Riberdy, Camden Rodrigues, Colton Rogers, Cypress Rosenranger, Ava Rowe, Kyla Sacco, Mallory Sample, Liam Shattuck, Adrielle Sheridan, Kayla Smith, Kyle Stebbins, William Stromwall, Peyton Sullivan, Nicholas Tracy,

Addison Trosky, Annelise Waldron, Mason Waskiewicz, Caitlyn Wetherbe, Mia Yvon, Jacob Zanetti

Grade 9 High Honors: Goudy Abuata, Zakaria Ardolino, Alison Aucoin, Sireen Awkal, Ariana Balwa, Charlotte Beaulieu, Lauren Beaulieu, Eva Breau, Thomas Brogle, Bailey Burgmyer, Nolan Burke, Jason Cao, Nolan Carney, Charlotte Castellano, Juliana Coffey, Emilia Colondres, Carly Coughlin, Nathan Demetri, Amelia DePace, Johnathan Dinh, Owen Dolley, Sadie Dos Santos, Owen Downey, Keeley Doyle, Grace Falzone, Eva Gagliarducci, James Gallagher, Ava Germain, Alyse Goldrick, Aviana Gomez, Olivia Goodrow, Nicole Grabowski, Lily Guo, Isabel Horne, Tyler Hoskinson, Jackson Hulseberg, Collin Kennedy, William Kern, Daniel Lareau, Johanna Lewis, Joy Mendonca, Emily Meunier, Gavin Meunier, Louis Morin, Ethan Nunlist, Ava O'Connor, Jack Parastatidis, Ava Pelosso, Megan Pronovost, Logan Richard, Sierra Rocha, Myralece Rosado, Jackson Rust, Quintin Saviengvong, Abigail Stachowicz, Ian Stratton, Stepan Syrota, Carolina Tangredi, Sean Tillberry, Nathaniel Tirabassi, Joseph Twarog-DeJura, Maya Usher, Shannon Wietecha

Grade 10 Honors: Jewelyanie Andino, Tommy Appleby, Ant'Gilee Ayala, Cole Balog, Mia Balog, Taylor Bartosz, Aidan Bean, Seth Beebe, Madeline Bleau, Elliana Brodeur, Maxim Bruno, Braxton Burzenski, Nicholas Capen, Annalecia Carlo, Maximus Cayo, Irelyn Coffey, Joseph Comes, Leah Croteau, Carlos Cruz, Nathaniel David, Colin Devanski, Kaelyn Dionne, Ava Eggsware, Caroline Euber, Maxwell Fergus, Ella Ferrentino, Emmett Fitzpatrick, Emmy Foisy, Devon Fortenberry, Colin Foulis, Gavin French, Jackson Gag-

ner, Olivia Gates, Mya Gierlich, Mallory Grono, Madison Guertin, Danika Haygood, Parker Hoey, Demetrius Holmes, Keira Horne, Brielle Hunter, Emilia Imbriglio, Releana Jackson, Drew Jennings, Alexis Joseph, Emma King, Darius Koch, Isabella Kupis, Geoffrey Kyei Ohe-meng, William Lapalm, Liana Larson, Hannah Learned, Cameron Lowe, Yman Ly, Vivien Martin, Dominic Mascaro, Isadora Maurice, Clare McMahon, Marabella Melluzzo, Caleb Moreno, Adriane Moretz, Frank Morin, Ezraella Moskvitch, Ryan Mullen, Luke Nichols, Gianna Nowicki, Killian Nutting, Sophia O'Connor, Patrick O'Toole, Demetri Pappanikou, Madeline Pastore, Ava Peck, Owen Petit, Averie Picard, Kendall Placzek, Alexis Powers, Domenic Roach, Caden Russ, Benjamin Salvador, Hailey Schliopou, Riley Senecal, Zachary Senecal, Lillian Sergienko, Alysandra Serju, Julia Smith, Arianna Soler, Audriana Stasio, Mya Suarez, Michael Sullivan, Elliot Sylvester, Anna Taylor, Camren Valle, Juliana Washington, Calvin Webster, Rayona Whyte, Joseph Woytowicz

Grade 10 High Honors: Owen Antaya, Peter Appleby, Rama Awkal, Kayden Bain-Purdy, Bryce Beckel, Andrew Boilard, Hunter Buckert, Thomas Chitiva Ortiz, Gavin Clark, Ryan Donovan, Nora Fletcher, Gianna Fusco, Mario Garcia, Nicholas Gen-carelli, Eliza Gloss, Hayden Gloss, Gavin Goldrick, Ashley Griguoli, Kelsey Jennings, Brooke Johnson, Ashlyn Landry, Landon Laskiewicz, Peyton Lee, Savannah Lopez, Dylan Lesure, Adriana Lopez, Jacob Luttrell, Ryan Mackie, Olivia Maserati, Elijah Mathias, Ashley McDonald, Daizy McDonald, Mylie Mittler, Wilhe Morales Casillas, Tess Morrow, Dylan Niznik, Nicholas Nordstrom, Liam O'Brien, Youngsun Oh, Tristan Oliveira, Kirk

Pagoaga, Benjamin Patter-son, Madison Quinlan, Noah Ramos, Brenan Rost, Ava Secor, Ryan Semanie, Sofia Shores, Gabriel Solowinski, Joseph Sullivan, Jessica Sun, Julius-Joseph Sutton, William Szpakowski, Grayson Tanguay, Jillian True, Ormandy Velazquez, James Wadzinski, Olivia Zheng

Grade 11 Honors: Jason Abeid, Gana Abuata, Lilianna Bennett, Peter Black, Bryana Blaser, Angelina Bon-tempi, Katherine Britt, Abigail Camire, Lilianna Celetti, O'Brien Chen, Eli Childers, Ivy Christensen, Cameron Colon, Ismael Colon, Kiera Connors, Gabrielle Cooper, Fabiano Costa, Dylan Dalesio, Marce Damasceno Coel-line Pastore, Ava Peck, Owen Petit, Averie Picard, Kendall Placzek, Alexis Powers, Domenic Roach, Caden Russ, Benjamin Salvador, Hailey Schliopou, Riley Senecal, Zachary Senecal, Lillian Sergienko, Alysandra Serju, Julia Smith, Arianna Soler, Audriana Stasio, Mya Suarez, Michael Sullivan, Elliot Sylvester, Anna Taylor, Camren Valle, Juliana Washington, Calvin Webster, Rayona Whyte, Joseph Woytowicz

lini, Moira Shannon, Dillon Shaughnessey, Landon Sheerin, Savannah Sheerin, Gracie Smith, Alison Souza, Benjamin Stebbins, Olivia Stephen, Cole Stone, Sophia Sundheim, Tyler Supczak, Kaleb Sweetman, Logan Thomas, Faith Trombly, Grace Trombly, Hope Trombly, Brayden Tugie, Isabella Usher, Luis Vega, Ariella Velez, Kei Williams

Grade 11 High Honors: Pedro Alvan, Philip Castellano, Annabella Cianflone, Gavin Coughlin, Addison Derosia, Braedon Donahue, Jonathan Dyer, Nehir Elcin, Ella Gagliarducci, Jasmine Gaspariano, Olivia Gencarsio, Naomi Griffin, Ryan Haber, Lucy Haile, Liam Harrigan, Katelyn Hoar, Madelyn Hoskinson, Ava Keegan, Isabella Kirton, Celayna Ledvina, Abigail Lee, Leah Lomascolo, Andrea Lyon, Caroline Maloni, Mia Manseau, Sky-Lynn McGrath, Chelsea Ortega, Veronica Ouimet, Riddhi Patel, Matthew Perkins, Mackenzie Picard, Collin Purcell, Karolina Robles-Maurer, Sydney Rocha, Jack Rumplick, Cameron Salvador, Olivia Spring, Connor Tillberry, Brahmaddutt Vijay, Sarah Rose Walsh, Drew Weinberg, Thomas Wurm

Grade 12 Honors: Angelina Acevedo, Victoria Ambrose, Ian Angelica, Adam Arce, Ali Awkal, Logan Barcome, Emily Benoit, Gabriella Bermudez, Alec Boilard, Mia Bolduc, Bella Brault, Lila Britton, Kennedy Burgmyer, Alyssa Capen, Lillian Catellier, Logan Clark, Natalia Clarke, Kelly Cronin, Maliha Daubon, Madeleine Dos Santos, Gabriella Eggsware, Landyn Eldridge, Cody Erskine, Jacob Fahy, Miles Fergus, Dominic Fiorentino, Lucas Fyntrilakis, Khaliyah Gagner, Yong Ming Gao, Eliana Gaudreau, Zeirra Hernandez, Enzo Hrycay, Laya Ibrahim, Tyler Jaslanek, Elizabeth Johnson, Lana

Johnson, Mason Jones, Mae-ghan Joyce, John Kavanagh, Kathryn Kennedy, Zachariah Kozub, Chloe Kuklinski, Brady Laliberte, Benjamin Latourelle, Mai Le, Aidan Lee, Evan Liverseidge, Benjamin Lopez, Jack Lucarelle, Avery Lucas, Hannah Luff, Natalie Madison, Ava Manning, Austin Marques, Nolah McConnell, Jasmine Miller, Daniella Moraru, Ava Moretti, Emily Moriarty, Danielle Muir, Anastasia Mutti, Haonam Nguyen, Vinh Nguyen, Alyssa Nogueira, Cambria Norval, Anna O'Toole, Alexander Parent, Zachary Parent, Nico Penna, Zoe Pinnock, Cecelia Potts, Katelynn Pronovost, Natalie Proulx, Kameah Pryce, Ronin Rief, Chloe Robins, Maisen Rosado, Aezlin Rost, Connor Roy, Lauren Rucki, Patrick Ryan, Mostaffa Saleh, Alexander Savlick, Dylan Secor, Colin Sheehan, Aubrey Stachowicz, Jediah Stewart, Lilianna Sullivan, Yazmin Tafolla-Chapin, Carly Tranghese, Thatcher Trumbull, Matthew VanDerBeken, Madisyn Vazquez, William Vezina III, Journey Waters-Brown, Elijah Webster, Celena Williams, Nicholas Zayas

Grade 12 High Honors: Emma Balog, Kelly Balog, Maxwell Baroni, Trinity Burgmyer, Hayden Carlotto, Anthony Cianflone, Nicholas Cianflone, Caleigh Conboy, Allison Demetri, Aidan Dzierwinski, Noemi Fraga, Margaret Fulton, Mateo Garcia, Carina Gonnello, Colin Haines, Giselle Harris, Brody Harrison, Hunter Howard, Kaitlyn Lopez Pham, Ava Luszc, Jaymiel Martinez, Sean McSwain, Jacob Moore, Morgan Morrow, Alina Narvaez, Lyric Nelson, Cailin O'Brien, Cora Pace, Hannah Przechocki, William Quinn, Annabella Rostek, Emma Rostek, Connor Seymour, Alexa Sherman, Linda Stanco, Isabella Strand, Ava Thompson, Ella Trosky, Elizabeth Woytowicz

POPS from page 1

tainly kindest students that I have ever had the pleasure to work with.”

Aside from the Seniors, Morris also took a moment to recognize three talented musicians: Soprano Vocalist Ella Gagliarducci, Violinist Elijah Matthias and Violinist Hussein Saleh within the ensemble that participated in the New England Music Festival Association (NEMFA) – an annual, highly selective festival for high school musicians all across New England.

Gagliarducci described NEMFA as one of her favorite musical experiences she has had this year, emphasizing the community aspect she found in it.

“It gives students a really good way to interact with other students who have similar interests to them. I also think that it allows for a safe space where people can come together and realize music isn’t always about just being serious and performing. It’s also about talking to others, making friends, and establishing a community,” Gagliarducci said.

Morris credits the senior class for reviving the program as in his first year of teaching at Minnechaug, the ensemble was only made up of about five students, all belonging to the Class of 2026.

Second to perform was the Jazz Band, who presented “Come Fly With Me” by James Van Heusen and crowd-pleaser “Isn’t She Lovely” by Stevie Wonder, featuring Nick Capen on electric guitar.

The Minnechaug Mixed Choir and Honors Camerata performed pieces including a



Mixed Choir and Camerata Treble Voices perform “Killin’ me Softly with His Song.”



Dave Morris conducts Jazz Band Ensemble.

treble arrangement of “Killin’ Me Softly With His Song” by Roberta Flack and a bittersweet “Dust in the Wind” by Kansas as a send-off to their seniors.

Among the seven seniors were two recognized with awards, presented by Choral Director Tom Ingram.

Alexa Sherman received the Minnechaug Choral Award for participation in

multiple competitive music festivals and her unwavering enthusiasm towards the program.

“This student was always respectful, conscientious, and prepared for rehearsals, focusing on the task at hand and always mindful of asking the right questions for clarity at the right time. This student has never ever once shown that she has not wanted to be

here,” Ingram said.

Meanwhile, the National Choral Award was presented to Laila Hosnander, described by Ingram as, “... A student that has demonstrated vocal commitment outside of the music program on an academic level by being a teacher assistant and committing to a musical career path. Any musical endeavor that she set out to do she followed through



Photos courtesy of Kayla Smith
Nick Capen shredding his electric guitar.

with.”

In addition, Ingram recognized several students for participating in the selective 67th Western Massachusetts Music Educators Senior Districts Festival – Bass Tra Appleby, Soprano Elizabeth Espinal, Soprano Ella Gagliarducci, Soprano Eva Gagliarducci, Alto Laila Hosnander, Soprano Isadora Maurice, Alto Joy Mendonca, Alto Selena Nguyen, Alto Audriana Stasio, Tenor Elliot Sylvester, Tenor Camren Valle and Soprano Layla Williams.

Furthermore, three of those students – Laila Hosnander, Selena Nguyen and Audriana Stasio – were recognized for participation in the extremely competitive Massachusetts Music Educators All-State Festival.

Reflecting on her experience, Hosnander said this.

“It’s been a dream of mine since I was a freshman. When you hit that first harmony at All-State, there’s nothing like it,” Hosnander said.

Before the Wind Sym-

phony—consisting of the symphonic, wind, and persuasion—closed the evening with their final pieces, two more seniors in the group received awards.

The Director’s Award—dedicated to recognizing those that have shown outstanding leadership in band—was presented to Natalie Proulx.

“In terms of graduating this year, it’s very sad to leave, but knowing that I’ve helped as many kids as I’ve helped and getting to meet all of the kids who are older than me that have helped me... Just to see both my progress and the progress of others, it’s been very powerful,” Proulx said.

Lastly, Isabella Strand was given the Drum Major Award in honor of her strong dependability to the Program.

“I was surprised because my fellow senior drum major, Hayden Carlotto, she’s so talented and so amazing to work with. But I was also really proud of myself because it was really awesome to see Morris acknowledge the work I put into managing athletics and music at the same time,” Strand said.

Being the last concert of every school year, the Pops Concert is always a teary one for Minnechaug Music. The scene of senior banners and final solos is bittersweet for the Department.

“It’s the best and worst part of my job,” Morris said. “I get to watch them grow up, and then I have to watch them leave.”

The Music Department’s next concert will be the Fine Arts Festival next December of the 2026-2027 school year.

HOMETOWN SPOTLIGHT SMALL BUSINESS

Park

Family Owned
and Operated
Since 1935

SPRING CLEANING!

“We get stains out like it never happened.”

We’ll clean your quilts, comforters, drapes & curtains with care.

Ask about special pricing for first responders

3 CONVENIENT LOCATIONS

262 Allen St., Springfield Mon.-Fri. 7:30 am-6 pm, Sat. 9 am - 3 pm	One Monarch Place Ste. 200, Springfield Mon.-Wed.-Fri.	464 Main Street, Wilbraham Mon. - Fri. 8am – 5pm, Sat. 9am – 1pm
--	---	---

413-736-5476 • parkcleaners413.com • 413-279-3222

WWW.ALEGRIDADANCE.COM

WHERE DANCE CONNECTS US ... AND LIFELONG FRIENDS ARE MADE!

658 CENTER STREET
LUDLOW, MA 01056
413-583-2321

POST

Computer Systems

Repairs • Upgrades
New & Used Equipment • Trade-ins

Where Technology Has Met It’s Match

Expert support beyond the sale for small businesses, home offices, family systems, mobile professionals and everyone in between is what separates POST from all the rest.

2785 Boston Road, Wilbraham, MA 01095
413-596-5177 • www.pocosys.com

Affordable Waste Solutions

Your Hometown Provider for
Rolloff and Front Load Dumpster Service

413-244-1943

A portion of every rental is donated to Breast Cancer Research

WE’VE MOVED!

Watch for our
GRAND RE-OPENING
in May on
461 Main Street

(across from Village Store Cafe)

THE GUILTY GRAPE
AT MAIN ST MARKET

Show LOCAL Businesses
Some LOVE

Park

Your Hometown Dry Cleaners
Family owned and operated since 1935
GET TO KNOW OUR GREAT SERVICE

Ask about special pricing for first responders

“We get stains out like it never happened.”

15% OFF DRY CLEANING when you pre-pay!

262 Allen St., Springfield Mon.-Fri. 8am-6pm, Sat. 8am-3pm Sun. 9am-2pm	One Monarch Place Ste. 200, Springfield Mon. - Wed. - Fri.	464 Main St., Wilbraham Mon.-Fri. 8am-4pm, Sat. 9am-1pm Sun. closed
---	---	---

413-736-5476 • parkcleaners413.com

Heavenly Inspirations

Flowers • Gifts
Collectibles • Gourmet

Ted Metayer, Jr./Ted Metayer III
Owners/Designers

64 East Street, Ludlow, MA 01056
(413) 547-6164 • (888) 248-1901

theodoremetayer@yahoo.com
www.heavenlyinspirationsflowers.com

Classifieds

12 WEEKLY NEWSPAPERS | SERVING 50 LOCAL COMMUNITIES

A TURLEY PUBLICATION | www.turley.com

COMMUNITY MARKETPLACE

Call us at 413.283.8393

FOR SALE

FIREWOOD

FIREWOOD
Fresh cut & split \$240.00
Seasoned cut & split \$375.00
All hardwood.
Tree length available
*Also have seasoned softwood for outdoor boilers (Cheap).
Quality & volumes **guaranteed!!**
New England Forest Products
(413)477-0083

MORE HEAT LESS WOOD. Central Boiler Classic Edge HDX Outdoor Wood Furnace. EPA Certified. Titanium Stainless Steel. \$2K Tax Credit.
Call (508)882-0178

MISCELLANEOUS

HARMON PELLET STOVE MODEL XXV. Like new condition, dark maroon enamel. \$2750. 413-848-2298.

TAG SALE

"PELICAN CASE AND LIGHT SIDEWALK SALE"
Pioneer Plaza Palmer
Friday, May 15 and
Saturday, May 16, 9am-1pm
1240 Park Street - in the same plaza as Acropolis Pizza and China House.
Pelican and other plastic storage case and flashlight Dealer. Varying sizes of cases and lights overstocked and must go. Prices 50+ percent off across the board for over-stock items!!!!

PRE-ESTATE SALE.
SATURDAY, MAY 16, 9AM-4PM.
16 Pleasant St., West Brookfield.
Collectibles, old books, vinyl, glass, furniture, etc. No Early Birds.

WANTED

WANTED!
CASH for:
• Machinist tools, power tools & Snap on.
• Electronics & Audio Equipment.
• Sports Cards.
• 70s/80s/90s Toys.
• Antiques & Collectibles.
Much, much more!
Call/Text Sam
413-531-5381

WANTED TO BUY

ALL ANTIQUES AND OLD STUFF WANTED.
BUYING Bottles, Crocks, Jugs, Pottery, Costume Jewelry, Toys, Games, coins, sterling, Glassware, Silver-plated items, watches, Musical instruments, typewriters, sewing machines, tools, radios, clocks, lanterns, lamps, kitchenware, cookware, knives, military, automotive, fire department, masonic, license plates, beer cans, barware, books, oil cans, advertising tins, hunting, fishing, signs, and more.
Donald Roy (860) 874-8396

WANTED

ALWAYS BUYING ALL ANTIQUES:
Musical instruments, guitars, horns, keyboards, vintage electronics, jewelry, coins, watches, military cameras, sports memorabilia, art, sterling, signs, automotive, hunting, advertising, radios, ham radio equipment, audio equipment, toys, one item or entire estate.
Call Paul 413-206-8688

JUNK REMOVAL

A Call We Haul FAST REMOVAL
Junk, Appliance, Cleanouts.
We load it & take it.
413-531-1936
CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED

ARA JUNK FURNITURE REMOVAL
Full house cleanouts, attics, basements, garages, pools, hot tubs, sheds, decks. Same day service. 8am-9pm. Credit cards accepted. Free estimates on phone.
Fully insured.
Call Pete 413-433-0356.

SERVICES

A B Hauling and Removal Service
2***A & B HOUSEHOLD REMOVAL SERVICE*******
Cellars, attics, garages cleaned, yard debris. Barns & sheds demolished. Swimming pools removed. Cheaper than dumpster fees and we do all the work. Lowest rates. Fully insured. (413)283-6512, cell (413)222-8868.
DRYWALL, PAINTING AND CEILINGS, plaster repair. Drywall hanging. Taping & complete finishing. All ceiling textures. Fully insured. Jason at Great Walls. (413)563-0487

ELECTRICIAN

LICENSED ELECTRICIAN
I offer good quality electrical work, no project too small. Service upgrades, pools, trustworthy, dependable & insured.
Master Elec. #20773A.
Text/call Luis 413-218-3301.

CLASSIFIED DEADLINES
FRIDAY AT NOON

SERVICES

ZEN ELECTRIC COMPANY LLC
Fully licensed and insured; Master Electrician on staff. Call for all your electrical needs. No job too small. Senior citizen and Veteran Discount. A veteran owned company. MA License #8101A1.
Call John at (413)206-6509

PJ's Electrical MASTER ELECTRICIAN
• Licensed & Insured •
Providing safe, reliable electrical services for residential and commercial projects.
NOW OFFERING FREE CONSULTATIONS.
Call today to schedule your appointment.
(413) 366-1703
(Lic. #24046-A)

HOME IMPROVEMENT

HOME IMPROVEMENT SPECIALIST
Decks, porches, repair service, roofing and siding contractor.
Tim 413-563-2229. Licensed/insured. 35 year construction supervisor.

HOME IMPROVEMENTS. REMODELING Kitchens, baths. Ceramic tile, windows, painting, wallpapering, siding, decks. Insurance work. Fully insured. Free estimates. (413)246-2783 Ron.

CHAMELEON PAINTING & REMODELING
INTERIOR/EXTERIOR
Remodeling & Deck Specialists
Residential/Commercial
Fully Insured • Free Estimates
413-351-1147

HOME IMPROVEMENT

Handyman Services
Walker Home Improvement
Licensed & Insured
Finish Carpentry • Framing • Drywall • Painting • & more!
(413) 687-5552

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

SERVICES

LANDSCAPING

A+ ROZELL'S LANDSCAPING & BOBCAT SERVICE
Excavator Services
Overgrown property?
Extreme Brush Cutting!
Shrub, Stump, Tree Removal
Lawn/Arborvitae Installed
Loam, Stone, Mulch, Sand
Storm Clean-up
Small Demolition/ Junk Removal
Insured
Josh Rozell 413-636-5957

****ALL SEASON****
Specializing in shrub trimming, pruning, design, deliveries, loader, backhoe, insured. Professional.
Please call Bob (413)537-5789.

MATT GUERTIN LANDSCAPING

Landscape Design and Installation
Paver Patios, Walkways
For more services visit mattguertinlandscaping.com
Call or text 413-266-9975
Insured - Commercial - Residential

LAWN & GARDEN

A.A.A. ROTOTILLING Yes time to till gardens and flower beds too. Be safe grow your own. Call for appointment, fair and reasonable rates. Suburban residential only. 413-626-1927.

MASONRY

STOP WET BASEMENTS

ABC MASONRY & BASEMENT WATERPROOFING
All brick, block, stone, concrete. Hatchway doors, basement windows, chimneys rebuilt & repaired, foundations repaired, basement waterproofing systems, sump pumps. BBB+ rating. Free estimates. Lic #14790.
Call (413)569-1611, (413)374-5377

SERVICES

PAINTING

KEN'S PAINTING SERVICES. Interior painting/staining, wallpaper removal, wall/ceiling resurfacing, cabinet painting. Quality workmanship, fully insured. Free estimates. Call 413-896-8264.

PRO PAINTING
Low, low prices. All phases interior, exterior painting and wallpapering. Also minor carpentry. 413-310-5099.

PLUMBING

GREG LAFONTAIN PLUMBING & HEATING Lic #19196 Repairs & Replacement of fixtures, water heater installations, steam/HW boiler replacement. Kitchen & Bath remodeling. 30 years experience. Fully insured. \$10 Gift Card With Work Performed. Call Greg (413)592-1505

PRESSURE WASHING

HOT WATER PRESSURE WASHING. We use brushes and state of the art equipment. We remove grime and mold from homes, patios, fences, walkways, all decks, concrete & driveways. Senior Discounts. For free estimates call Bill (413)519-9800.

RUBBISH REMOVAL

BOB ROBILLARD'S RUBBISH REMOVAL Attics, Cellars, Garages cleaned, Pools/Hot Tubs Removed. Family owned/operated since 1950 (413)537-5090

TREE WORK

AAA-TROM'S TREE SERVICE PROFESSIONAL SERVICE. Residential removal of trees. Free estimates. Fully insured W/Workman's Comp. Remove them before the wind takes them down. Cordwood, stump grinding. Call 413-283-6374.

AFFORDABLE STUMP GRINDING
Fast, dependable service. Free estimates. Fully insured. Call Joe Sablack 413-436-9821, Cell 413-537-7994

DL & G TREE SERVICE- Everything from tree pruning, tree removal, stump grinding, storm damage and brush chipping. Honest and Dependable. Fully insured. Now offering a Senior Citizen and Veteran discount. Call today for free estimate (413)478-4212

Buying? Selling?
Our Classifieds Get Results!

SERVICES

TUNE-UPS

LAWNMOWER TUNE UP & REPAIR
A&M TUNE-UPS
Push Lawnmowers, Riding Mowers and Small Engine Repair.
Work done at your home.
FREE PICKUP OF UNWANTED LAWN EQUIPMENT
Call Mike (413) 348-7967

STUMP GRINDING

DL & G STUMP GRINDING Grinding stumps of all sizes, insured & certified. Senior discounts. Call Dave 413-478-4212

AUTO

CAMPERS

2011 KEYSTONE MONTANA MOUNTAINEER MODEL RKD
LENGTH 33'; 2 SLIDE-OUTS, REAR KITCHEN, SLEEPS 4, LOTS OF STORAGE. \$8000. BRIMFIELD - (413)374-1880

HELP WANTED

HOUSE CLEANER POSITION AVAILABLE!
Established company, flexible schedule, competitive wages, supportive team, respectful clients! Work around college classes or meeting the bus! Call today to see if we are the right fit for you! We are eager to have you join our Team!
413-267-4297 or 413-695-8087.

LABORERS AND HEAVY EQUIPMENT OPERATOR

Positions available with local work. Proper licenses required including OSHA compliance. Compensation will commensurate with experience. Transportation required.
Email: bradwayconstruction@yahoo.com
with your resume and for more information.

REAL ESTATE

FOR RENT

15 MAPLE ST., BROOKFIELD. Available June 1. Unit 2, 2 bedroom, 1 bath, fenced yard, washer/dryer/dishwasher. Country style kitchen cabinets, quiet location. \$1500/mo. First/last/security. Good credit 700+.
Stone Group Realty 774-262-6667.

EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY

ALL REAL ESTATE advertised herein is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act, which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference, limitation, or discrimination because of race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status, or national origin, or intention to make any such preference, limitation, or discrimination." We will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. All persons are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised are available on an equal opportunity basis.

FOR RENT

All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act of 1968, which makes it illegal to advertise any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status (number of children and or pregnancy), national origin, ancestry, age, marital status, or any intention to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination.
This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate that is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertising in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain about discrimination call The Department of Housing and Urban Development "HUD" toll-free at 1-800-669-9777. For the N.E. area, call HUD at 617-565-5308. The toll free number for the hearing impaired is 1-800-927-9275.



Post your job openings in our classifieds.
WE GET RESULTS!
Call 1-413-283-8393

FILL OUT AND MAIL THIS MONEY MAKER

MAIL TO: Classifieds, 24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069
or call: 413-283-8393

DEADLINES: FRIDAY AT NOON

CATEGORY:			
1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20
21	Base Price \$26.50	22	Base Price \$27.00
23	Base Price \$27.50	24	Base Price \$28.00
25	Base Price \$28.50	26	Base Price \$29.00
27	Base Price \$29.50	28	Base Price \$30.00
29	Base Price \$30.50	30	Base Price \$31.00
31	Base Price \$31.50	32	Base Price \$32.00
33	Base Price \$32.50	34	Base Price \$33.00
35	Base Price \$33.50	36	Base Price \$34.00
37	Base Price \$34.50	38	Base Price \$35.00
39	Base Price \$35.50	40	Base Price \$36.00

Name: _____ Phone: _____
Address: _____
Town: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Number of Weeks: _____ X per week rate = \$ _____
Credit Card: MasterCard VISA Discover Cash Check# _____
Card #: _____ Exp. Date _____ CVV _____
Amount of charge: _____ Date: _____

Quabbin Village Hills
Circulation: 50,500

Hilltowns
Circulation: 9,800

Suburban Residential
Circulation: 59,000

All Three ZONES for \$26.00 for 20 words plus 50¢ for each additional word.

GREAT VALUE!
ALL 3 ZONES NOW FOR THE PRICE OF ONE!
Make checks payable to Turley Publications

OUR CLASSIFIEDS REACH 50 COMMUNITIES EVERY WEEK!

OBITUARIES

CANDIDATES from page 2

and will continue to perform my duties with the highest professional standards, integrity and fairness."

On what inspired him to run for reelection, Wesolowski discussed the many years he's lived in town.

"As a resident of Wilbraham for the past 47 years, I am proud of the town my wife Cheryl and I live in and where we raised and educated our children, Marty, Evonne and AnnMarie. Wilbraham has a beautiful rural setting with a wonderful culture of caring neighbors. I have been inspired by the community members volunteering their time to get involved and be a part of the culture, and working to enrich it. Contributing my skill set on the Board of Assessors is my contribution, and it has been gratifying, as much as participating in and supporting the school system, sport programs, social services, town library, church and cultural events," Wesolowski said.

For successes and improvements, he noted these items.

"My successes as an Assessor include managing and improving the Assessor's office and its operations. The hiring of qualified individuals was a daunting task during and after COVID. A focus on training and skill development, along with the purchase of new software systems, has enhanced staff efficiency. I believe we now have one of the best Assessor's office staff in Western Massachusetts. These efforts have resulted in bringing more work in-house while reducing operating expenses and staffing by nearly 50%. This success is attributable to my continuity of service as a Board member and ded-

ication to improving the Assessor's office operations," Wesolowski said.

Wesolowski said he envisions these goals if reelected.

"Looking ahead, I'm prepared for future challenges, including new state regulations, staff development, implementing a succession plan, controlling operating costs, with the end goal of minimizing the tax burden for all residents. I envision achieving a lower tax rate for the town of Wilbraham and providing tax relief for residents, veterans, disabled and especially seniors who have built this desirable community and wish to continue and afford to live in town. I support expanding the Senior Work Off Abatement Program and addressing the Community Preservation Act," Wesolowski said. "My emphasis has been and will continue to be minimizing the tax rate while meeting state regulations. I will continue to focus on operating efficiencies, improving technology use, while ensuring equitable and impartial assessment of all properties in our wonderful town. I would appreciate your vote for John Wesolowski for the Wilbraham Board of Assessors on May 16 between 8:30 am and 6:30 pm at Minnechaug Regional High School."

Daniel Fernandes

Fernandes explained that his experience with the exterior infrastructure repair field gave him insight to learn more about town properties.

"My years of experience in the exterior infrastructure repair field have helped me gather real-life information on costs associated with the maintenance of homes and businesses alike. With that said, I have performed this work primarily in Wilbraham, which has allowed me to learn about town properties and the citizens that own them," Fernandes said.

On what inspired him to run for the Board of Assessors, Fernandes said this.

"My inspiration to run for this position came from a place that I was not expecting. My experience with the assessors had always been a pleasant one of professional nature and kindness. A few years ago, we had what I would consider a culture shift in the office of the assessors," Fernandes said.

He elaborated further on this. "One of the processes that a land owner with over five acres may have to complete is chapter paperwork, which notates what type of land is within that acreage, i.e., hay, vegetables, orchard etc. This process, normally a simple one, had become quite complicated. When I asked if this could make it more difficult for town residents to navigate and could actually cause inaccuracies resulting in higher taxes. The assistant assessor answered with "we aren't talking about a lot of money here," Fernandes said. "The new assessors, began a process to reclassify lands that have been in active agricultural for years. This has effectively increased taxes on dozens of landowners in town. When asked by a resident how they can afford to pay the additional taxes, the Assistant Assessor answered, 'Don't worry, you have the money.' I have brought these issues up to the principal assessor and the Board of Assessors without any solution. If this is the new policy behind the Principal and Assistant Assessor, it will have a largely negative impact on all town residents."

Fernandes emphasized his ultimate goal, if elected, is transparency and more solutions.

"My goal on the Board of Assessors is to bring transparency to a board that I have found there is not enough information on what role they play. Also to bring more solutions to the seniors and veterans who are on fixed incomes as the taxes continue to increase," Fernandes said.

ELECTION INFO: Saturday, May 16 Minnechaug Regional High School from 8:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m

Helen Ham, 99

On April 27, Helen Ham passed away. She was born in Ludlow on September 11th, 1926, she was the daughter of Joseph and Julia (Krzyszowski) Ostrowski. She graduated with honors from Ludlow High School in 1944 and was hired by the town to work in the Town Clerk's office. At age 21 Helen was appointed Assistant Town Clerk, the youngest in the state.

She furthered her education by taking night courses at AIC, Bennetts Secretarial School, and Commerce where she met Dana in a Radio, Speech, and Drama class. In 1952 after working eight years for the town, she left to

marry Dana. They had a wonderful life together until his death in 2011.

When Wilbraham was considering fluoridating its water supply, Helen was chairman of "Save Our Water". The measure was overwhelmingly defeated. She gave the town land on the un-paved portion of Shady Lane for recreational purposes, now used by many.

A love of animals, she helped form Concerned Citizens for Animals and was on the board of directors for many years. She also enjoyed painting, and started evening lessons at Bay Path. In 1959 Helen had six different teach-

DEATH NOTICES

Wilkinson Sr., James E. Died April 22, 2026 Sampson Family Chapels

Ham, Helen Died April 27, 2026 Sampson Family Chapels

ers. She leaves many treasured relatives and friends and an angel, Mura. Thank you all for being a part of my life. In my memory, donations may be made to the TJ O'Connor or Dakin to help care for animals. All services for Helen were held privately. Sampson Family Chapels has been entrusted with her arrangements.

James E. Wilkinson Sr., 80

James E. Wilkinson Sr., 80, of Wilbraham, passed away peacefully at home on Wednesday, April 22, 2026, surrounded by his loving family. Born in Bridgeport, Connecticut, on March 21, 1946, Jim was the son of the late George E. and Elizabeth (Spinelli) Wilkinson.

Jim graduated from Bridgeport High School before serving in the United States Air Force. He went on to earn both his bachelor's and master's degrees from Western New England College. Jim was a Professor of Economics at Asnuntuck Community College, where he served on numerous committees and played a key role in establishing the Veterans Center on campus. During his tenure, he received multiple awards for instructional and teaching excellence. Colleagues and students alike remember him as a mentor, motivator, and larger-than-life presence. Prior to becoming a full-time professor, Jim was employed by MassMutual Financial Group for close to 20 years, holding various roles throughout his tenure. He also served as an adjunct professor at Western New England College and Bay Path University.

Jim was predeceased by his parents and his brothers,

George, Nicholas, and Thomas Wilkinson.

Jim is survived by his beloved wife and best friend, Wendy (Peck) Wilkinson of Wilbraham; his sons, James "Jim" Wilkinson Jr. and his wife Laura of Davenport, Florida, and Steve Wilkinson and his fiancée Dawn Vivencio of Cape Cod, Massachusetts; his daughters, Kelsey May Wilkinson of Woburn, Massachusetts, and Aleena Wilkinson of Wilbraham; his cherished grandchildren, Tami Barrington, Alejandra Wilkinson, and Spencer Vivencio; his great-grandchildren Lucas DePalo and Kylee Barrington; and his

sister Nancy Kettles. He is also survived by his sister-in-law, Alesia Peck; brother-in-law, Albert Dionne; niece, Samantha Peck-Dionne and grand-nephew, Elias Alan Ouellette.

Funeral services were held May 8, 2026 at Wilbraham United Church. Burial with military honors followed at Woodland Dell Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made in Jim's memory to the Asnuntuck Veterans Oasis Center, c/o the Asnuntuck Foundation, 170 Elm Street, Enfield, CT 06082.

OBITUARY POLICY

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries. One is a free, brief Death Notice listing the name of deceased, date of death and funeral date and place. The other is a Paid Obituary, costing \$275, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice (with a word limit of up to 500 words) and may include a photograph. Death Notices & Paid Obituaries should be submitted through a funeral home to: obits@turley.com.

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

PUBLIC NOTICES

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Probate and Family Court Hampden Division Docket No. HD26P0952EA Estate of: Rachel Anne Colen Also Known As: Rachel Colen Date of Death: 07/22/2025 INFORMAL PROBATE PUBLICATION NOTICE

To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner Lee Ann Hegarty of Wilbraham, MA.

Lee Ann Hegarty of Wilbraham, MA has been informally appointed as the Personal Representative of the estate to serve without surety on the bond.

The estate is being administered under informal procedure by the Personal Representative under the Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code without supervision by the Court. Inventory and accounts are not required to be filed with the Court, but interested parties are entitled to notice regarding the administration

from the Personal Representative and can petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including distribution of assets and expenses of administration. Interested parties are entitled to petition the Court to institute formal proceedings and to obtain orders terminating or restricting the powers of Personal Representatives appointed under informal procedure. A copy of the Petition and Will, if any, can be obtained from the Petitioner. 05/14/2026

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Probate and Family Court Hampden Probate and Family Court 50 State Street Springfield, MA 01103 (413)748-7758 Docket No. HD26P0977EA Estate of: Emma Margaret MacDonald Date of Death: 04/22/2026 CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL

ADJUDICATION To all interested persons: A Petition for Formal Adjudication of Intestacy and Appointment of Personal Representative has been filed by Mark H Moutinho of Pompano Beach, FL requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition. The Petitioner requests that Mark H Moutinho of Pompano Beach, FL 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 06/03/2026. 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. Claudine T. Stoudemire, First Justice of this Court. Date: May 06, 2026

Rosemary A Saccomani, Register of Probate 05/14/2026

SALE OF MOTOR VEHICLES

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

Vehicle: 2001 GMC Sierra VIN: 1GHTK29U31E25G247 LKO: Tina Kearns 40 Sutton Rd. Millbury, MA PO BOX 181 South Grafton, MA 01560

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

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

R & S Assoc. Inc PO Box 543 Wilbraham MA 01095 413-596-4374 05/07, 05/14, 05/21/2026

WILBRAHAM BOARD OF APPEALS PUBLIC HEARING

The Wilbraham Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a Public Hearing on Thursday, May 21, 2026 starting at 5:30 PM on the application of Gregory S. Harris for a variance (ZBA26-01) from Section 4.4.10 of the Wilbraham Zoning By-Law to construct a 240 square foot front porch within the front yard setback at 5 Russell Road as further specified in the application and plan that are on file in the Planning Office and posted for public viewing on the Zoning Board of Appeals page of the Town of Wilbraham website at www.wilbraham-ma.gov/135/Zoning-Board-of-Appeals.

This meeting will be conducted in person and virtually (see meeting agenda for details).

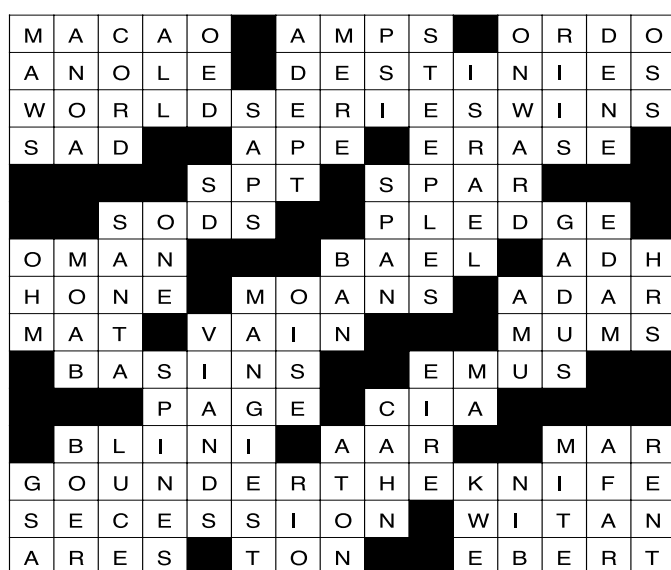
Edward Kivari Jr., Chairman 05/07, 05/14/2026

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 Friday at 3 p.m.

visit www.publicnotices.turley.com



EARLY DEADLINES

In observance of Memorial Day, PUBLIC NOTICES EARLY AD DEADLINE Place your public notice no later than NOON

Thursday, May 21

- Thank you!



HOMETOWN

▪ EXTERIORS ▪

The Beauty of a Wood Deck Without the Upkeep.

From cozy outdoor living rooms to breathtaking multi-level escapes, every deck that our craftsmen build is designed, engineered, and constructed with **quality, craftsmanship, and endless possibilities** in mind. We turn your backyard vision into a stunning, long-lasting reality.



LOCAL.

FAMILY-OWNED.

IN-HOUSE CRAFTSMEN.

OUR FAMILY OF COMPANIES

