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The Wilbraham-Hampden

# TIMES

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From the left, Firefighter Jonathan Cadieux, Fire Cadet Logan Howard and Lt. Joshua Sterling in a group photo with Nemo hats. The Hampden Fire Department was also selling t-shirts to support the Hampden Fire Department Association.

Turley photo by Kristin Rivers

## VFW Post 9397 hosts

## 63rd Annual Kids Fishing Derby

By Kristin Rivers  
Editor  
krivers@turley.com

HAMPDEN - The VFW Post 9397 hosted their 63rd Annual Kids Fishing Derby on May 10.

Throughout the event, families gathered along the Scantic River to cast a line

and fish, with prizes given out for the smallest fish, largest fish caught for boys and girls and the first fish caught.

The winners were Oliver Kinney, who caught the smallest fish measuring six and a quarter inches, Ben Howell who caught the first fish of the day, Brantley Therrien who caught the largest

fish for boys measuring 14 inches and Ealnor Howell who caught the largest fish for the girls at 12 1/2 inches.

Members of the fire department were also on hand to keep attendees safe due to the high current after recent rainstorms--with rope and life-jackets on standby--and sell Fish Derby-themed t-shirts

to support the Hampden Fire Department Association.

HFD Lt. Joshua Sterling served as this year's judge, measuring the fish as attendees presented them.

Giancarlo Crivelli, founder/executive director of Fishing Friends Inc., also stopped

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## Local Option Meals Excise Tax rejected

*Editor's Note: Due to a lack of resources, the Times will have coverage of the Hampden Annual Town Meeting beginning in our May 29 edition next week.*

By Kristin Rivers  
Editor  
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Turley photo by Kristin Rivers

**Finance Committee Member Mike Mazzuca, who also is chair of the Economic Development Committee, was among the residents who spoke on Article 33.**

WILBRAHAM - Residents rejected a Local Option Meals Excise Tax during the May 12 Annual Town Meeting.

Listed as Article 33, the Local Option Meals Excise Tax would have added .75% to the price of meals purchased at restaurants in Wilbraham, raising it from 6.25% to 7.0%. The funds collected would have been distributed back to the town from the Commonwealth quarterly.

The estimated quarterly receipts were noted as \$45,000 for FY26 in the warrant article.

Finance Committee Member Mike Mazzuca began the discussion with this thought.

"One thing that we could not do -- but there was supposed to be an understanding and that has not come up yet--and that is an understanding that the monies that were collected for this was going to go to the Veteran programs that we just voted on," Mazzuca said. "So, I'm hoping that that stays true and those funds are going to

be directed to that."

This was about Articles 29 through 33 for increasing Veteran Exemptions for veterans, surviving spouses and parents and guardians after the HERO Act was passed by the state in 2024. Articles 29 and 30 passed unanimously, Article 31 was no action and Article 32 had passed by majority.

Michael Dane noted how this tax was rejected twice before and how "it's a rare opportunity for an individual to vote on something like this and have an opportunity to say no about additional taxes."

"I'm taxed enough already, personally, and I think we should be voting against it," Daniel said.

Mazzuca then spoke

Please see **MEAL TAX**, page 5



## Boy Scout Troop 359 hosts Mother's Day Plant Sale

By Noelle Hisgen  
Correspondent

WILBRAHAM - On May 10, Wilbraham was extra busy all around, especially with the annual Hill Climb. One group in particular that was extremely busy around town was, also,

Turley photo by Noelle Hisgen  
**Boy Scout Troop member Johnny Guerin holds up flowers for sale.**

the Boy Scout Troop 359.

The Boy Scouts were very involved with the service activities that they were part of that day, including helping out at their annual Mother's Day Weekend Plant Sale at St. Cecilia's throughout the day. They also had a burger stand at the Hill Climb.

The plant sale has been a staple for the troop, dating back decades ago as an event for them, with the burger

stand only recently starting for the Boy Scouts.

Boy Scout Troop 359 is led by Thomas Wadzinski, who spoke about the day and what the boys learn from events such as these.

"As far as how events are organized or different things like that, how to interact with the community, and make a pleasant day for people," Wadzinski said.

Boy Scout Troop mem-

ber Johnny Guerin, who is a sixth-grade student at Wilbraham Middle School, spoke about being a member of the troop.

"You can do a lot of everything, we need to do service and I like that. And then you learn a lot, so it's fun," Guerin said.

Assistant Scout Troop

Please see **PLANT SALE**, page 13

## One-mile adventure in Wilbraham

By Patricia Sullivan  
Correspondent

WILBRAHAM - The Wilbraham Hill Climb is "a one-mile adventure--with a bit of a wacky left," said the race announcer as drivers started their engines on May 10.

Drivers of 28 vintage race cars came to Wilbraham to show off and test their flashy

rides on the challenging 23-degree ascent of Monson Road.

Alan Adolphsen, driving a MGB Ford Special 351W from the Owls Head Transportation Museum in Maine, won the one-mile race in 46.76 seconds, nearly two seconds under the track record.

The Hill Climb began

in 1908, when Springfield's early auto makers came to Wilbraham to test their vehicles on the steep hill with the tricky bend at Bolles Road. Some called it the toughest climb in New England.

Auto enthusiast George Holman of Wilbraham re-

Please see **HILL CLIMB**, page 9



Turley photo by Patricia Sullivan  
**A multimillion-dollar Ford 1966 GT40 was the first car up the hill.**

## Schulze participates in Fulbright teachers classroom program

By Kristin Rivers  
Editor  
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WILBRAHAM - Amy Schulze, an eighth-grade science teacher at Wilbraham Middle School, was selected for the Fulbright Teachers for Global Classrooms Program.

Schulze was sent to Senegal, explaining the two-week trip's purpose is about teacher exchange, global education and "opening up the world to teachers and to our students."

"Part of that time was in a host community--it's a city known as Kaolack, which is the third-largest city in Senegal--and I attended a high school there. I went into classes and had the opportunity to observe teachers, but then I also taught some lessons which

Please see **SCHULZE**, page 8



Photos courtesy of Amy Schulze

Wilbraham Middle School Teacher Amy Schulze poses for a photo during her adventure in Senegal, Africa, through the Fulbright Teachers for Global Classrooms Program.



# Petitioned ATM Article for flags rejected after debate

By Kristin Rivers  
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WILBRAHAM - A debate to establish a bylaw for the raising of flags on municipal property ensued during the May 12 Annual Town Meeting.

Article 48, which failed by majority vote, was a petitioned article presented by Dave Sanders and other residents.

The Times will have more on other big topics covered this ATM in our upcoming editions.

The petitioned Article 48 proposed establishing a bylaw for the raising of flags on municipal property--at the request of the Select Board or Town Administrator or designee--to be the United States flag, the Massachusetts state flag, flags of the police and fire departments or any other flag emblematic of a town department, Service Flags at Crane Park and Military Flags on Memorial Day, Veterans Day and Purple Heart Day.

**"THIS IS EXCEEDINGLY LIMITING. AND AGAIN, AS A FINAL NOTE, THE WAY IT IS WRITTEN, IT WOULD DIRECTLY IMPACT THE HISTORY AND SOCIAL SCIENCES CURRICULUM IN THE SCHOOL AND LIMIT WHAT I'D BE ABLE TO USE IN THE CLASSROOM."**

- Lara Plourde  
Wilbraham Middle School  
Teacher

Ahead of the discussion, Tracey Farnsworth made a motion to approve the article as published, with an amendment to 2D and 2E for the Service and Military Flags sections to be changed to 2D: Service/Military Flags.

Christine Goonan read the first part of the petition which had the language "Flags exhibited from Town-owned properties."

"Does that include public schools?" Goonan said.

After consulting with the Select Board, Town Administrator Nick Breault and Attorney Brian Winner, Town Moderator Jane Clark deferred the question to the petitioners, with Sanders stepping up to the microphone to answer.

"The intent was municipal-owned property," Sanders



Tracey Farnsworth presents the motion for Article 48, a petitioned article to establish a bylaw for the raising of flags on municipal property.

said. When Clark asked if this includes public schools, Sanders replied again.

"We own schools--except for Minnechaug--I believe," Sanders said.

When Goonan then asked, "Is this just for outside the building?," Sanders said he was unsure.

"Maybe town counsel could answer that one, I don't know," Sanders said.

After the question was repeated to the audience and the Select Board, Breault and Winner conversed again, Clark said this.

"So, this question is up to the petitioners to clarify to the satisfaction of the voters," Clark said. "So, does it apply to inside of a building that is municipally owned?"

Sanders said, "I would think that it would."

"An example, the school rooms--the student rooms--should be flying a flag under the Massachusetts MGL Laws," Sanders said.

Clark summarized it for the audience.

"So, apparently, the petitioners feel that the petitioned article applies to the outside and the inside of municipally-owned buildings," Clark said.

School Committee Vice Chair Sean Kennedy noted the recent Wilbraham Hill Climb and the flags flown around town that had let people know about the event, asking this.

"So, I guess those would not be able to be flown anymore? If someone owns or rents a property that is town-owned--or they live there and they want to put up an LGBTQIA+ flag or something like that--they wouldn't be allowed to do that either?" Kennedy said. "I don't see any clarification for those. I think it's poorly worded, I think it needs to go back to committee to get worked on and I think we should vote no on this."

Sanders clarified the Hill Climb flags and petitioned article.

"In regards to the racing flags on Main Street, that's not town-owned property,"



Turley photos by Kristin Rivers  
Christine Goonan shares her thoughts on Article 48.

Sanders said. "A municipal owned property."

Michael Lachenmeyer focused on LGBTQ flags in his comments.

"I think given the current administration, I think that complying with federal law or whatever is happening at the federal level, it kind of leave a c-sign potentially because we don't have any control over that," Lachenmeyer said. "I think it's better that we let this be decided at the town level."

Wilbraham Middle School Teacher Lara Plourde (Kirk) urged everyone to vote no "because we're not really understanding the full impact of it," noting how the school has flags from many different countries hanging in the cafeteria.

"We have International Week Celebrations where kids study different countries and we create and we display flags for all sorts of different reasons and purposes that are educational and historical," Plourde said.

Plourde also stressed that "as a municipality that represents more than just the government or the military aspect of what our municipality is, it also should represent the culture and the heritage of the people that live here and what that make Wilbraham, Wilbraham."

"This is exceedingly limiting," Plourde said. "And again, as a final note, the way it is written, it would directly impact the history and social sciences curriculum in the school and limit what I'd be able to use in the classroom."

Barbara Galanek, a former teacher, said for kids, "any type of" creativity and self-expression "could be through waving a flag."

"For someone to tell them that they're not allowed to when it's a part of their expression, I'm sorry, I think that's overstepping the bounds," Galanek said.

Richard Howell said it seems, to him, the petitioned article focuses on the official displaying of a flag whether it's in a classroom.

"I don't think it bans any of the things going around for, let's say, displays or anything like that, and we're



From the left, Attorney Brian Winner, Select Board Vice Chair Michael Squindo, Town Administrator Nick Breault, Select Board Clerk Marc Ducey and Select Board Chair Sue Bunnell have a brief huddle during discussion of Article 48.



Barbara Galanek speaks about Article 48 during the Annual Town Meeting on May 12.



School Committee Vice Chair Sean Kennedy asks questions about Article 48.



Former Veterans Services Director Jered Sasen provides further information on town policy regarding flags.



Dave Sanders, the petitioner for Article 48, answers questions during the public comment.

talking about municipal properties," Howell said. "The flag raisings aren't supposed to be some type of political diatribe. What they're supposed to do is start limiting to them to what has been traditionally flag-raising, not somebody's agenda, and as far as the children are concerned, half of what they're doing is being foisted upon them anyway."

This led to a chorus of boos and Howell yelling back, "Yes it is!" and Clark calling for order as he commented that the article is providing guidelines to what is officially allowed.

After Josh Caress asked the Select Board if, currently, there were any bylaws or regulations concerning flags displayed on municipal properties and government buildings, Chair Sue Bunnell replied there were not and offered this clarification.

"We have a policy about the flag choices that are allowed and it is similar in nature to this in terms of official policy," Bunnell said.

"So these apply to, like, the flag poles at government buildings, at town hall, something like that?" Caress said. "Exactly," Bunnell said.

"So, we have a policy in place that restricts what can be put up on a flag pole in front of a government building?" Caress said.

"Correct," Bunnell said.

"Yes."

Caress then declared, "This is entirely unnecessary."

"The petitioners have no idea how to clarify what's in this. We're going to leave it up to them to interpret what constitutes a flag, what constitutes waving a flag, hanging a flag, putting a flag somewhere?" Caress said. "It's completely unnecessary."

Former Veterans Services Director Jered Sasen explained how the initial town policy was brought up during his tenure and brought up in Boston "because of a flag that was used for free speech instead of government speech," which led to the city being sued.

"Essentially, the state came out with a--not a directive--but pretty much a training to tell all the municipalities that they're going to have to get ahead of this beforehand. Our municipality--our Select Board--came up with a flag policy that was concurrent with government speech stating that, essentially, prior to this, anybody could fly any flag at any point upon the request of the Select Board," Sasen said. "Now, the only flags that can be flown from our government buildings to include, like, display, outside display, can be only, essentially, the same things that are in here. So, this is already kind of under that policy."

Renee Bracey reiterated the prior speakers' comments, ending her remarks with this.

"We would be opening up a can of worms in terms of other problematic things on a wall decided by a few. Because even when we ask them simple questions about their policy it took them several minutes to even decide what they were wanting to put in place," Bracey said.

As Clark began to move to the vote, Sanders attempted to speak but she shut him down, which led to someone in the audience yelling, "Let him talk!"

After a pause, the vote was cast and Article 48 failed by majority, to rounds of applause.

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# Town-wide 25 MPH speed limit passes

By Kristin Rivers  
Editor  
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WILBRAHAM - The adoption of a town-wide 25 MPH speed limit was approved at the May 12 Annual Town Meeting.

The passage came after an initial vote of failing by majority vote. However, upon a requested recount--which led to counters manually counting the votes--the article officially passed by majority in a 113-61 vote.

Article 47 sets the town-wide speed limit at 25 MPH in all thickly-settled municipally owned streets that don't already have speed limits set according to state statutes, setting the unposted zones from the current speed limit of 30 MPH to 25 MPH.

Police Chief Ed Lennon explained that thickly settled is defined as "buildings less than 200 feet apart for a quarter mile or more" and "would essentially apply to residential side streets."

"The adoption of this would not change any currently posted specific speed limit zones or future specific speed limit zones, which are set under Massachusetts Law," Lennon said. "Example would be like Main Street or Boston Road."

Lennon said the adoption would be the "town's expression of what we expect vehicles to travel on our residential side streets" with the goal to "reduce the speed of vehicles on these side roads."

"There's going to be some challenges to this. I have been contacted by some people offline. What would this mean for police speed enforcement? Essentially, due to the fact that these are going to be side streets, generally, they're going to be in somewhat isolated areas," Lennon said. "It's going to be, frankly, difficult for the police to enforce this. It's going to be very situational. I think it's going to be the type of thing where we get complaints in that type of neighborhood, which we get now. We generally will go out and do a speed study, we'll put up a sign that will let us know what's going on and what our best enforcement options are. What we will do is then focus enforcement in these areas."

Lennon believed what won't change is when the WPD does this type of enforcement in "we're going to see situations where when the police do it, they're going to see an excessively speeding vehicle, they will stop it and they'll take whatever enforcement action there's going to be."

"The only difference I believe in this case is going to be that the fines might go up a little bit because it would

be five miles an hour difference in the fine," Lennon said. "But, I don't think that the enforcement is going to really be a determining factor, unfortunately."

Currently, Lennon said, about one-third of municipalities have adopted this, with most in Eastern Massachusetts and, locally, Ludlow, Springfield, Chicopee and Westfield have adopted this.

Belchertown was scheduled to vote on this at their Annual Town Meeting that same evening.

The signage, typically, is on main streets with borders around the words "Thickly Settled," with the words "CityWide" under "Speed Limit 25 MPH" and a box reading "Unless Otherwise Posted."

"Locally, you'll see Springfield and Ludlow generally have these signs at all of the entrances. You'll see them at the Wilbraham line as you go over," Lennon said.

Joe Lawler said this "almost seems to me to be a solution looking for a problem" and doesn't see a "major issue with regard to speeding" in these areas, having not seen them himself.

"If the comment is there's not going to be a change in enforcement, I'm not sure why we do it. I think, conversely, it could be a lot more enforcement. We're going to have a lot more people--hard-working people in town--with speeding tickets, with points and, not really, a lot to gain," Lawler said. "So, I think that the current situation is working very, very well and I respectfully suggest we vote no on this issue."

After Lennon said Lawler would be surprised by the amount of complaints for speeding on side streets received by the police department was almost daily, Garrett Fortin asked about the signs.

"If this is voted in, are we going to go away from the suggested yellow 30-mile-an-hour to a posted 25-mile-an-hour? Because suggestion is one thing. While I don't have a radar gun, I know what 50 miles an hour looks like because I do it myself, and there's a lot of people screaming up and down the road that I live on and plenty of other ones because it's extremely convenient to miss all those lights. I get it," Fortin said. "But if this is going to become a reality, that is a posted speed limit, not a suggested speed limit."

After Fortin noted his kids living on that street and people scream through the neighborhood along with not seeing too many speed studies, Lennon agreed that Glenn Drive and Brainard Road "are the most challenging areas."

"Unfortunately under



Turley photo by Kristin Rivers  
**Police Chief Ed Lennon presents the proposal for the town-wide 25 MPH speed limit for Wilbraham during the May 12 Annual Town Meeting.**

this law, this only applies to unposted, so it can't be posted," Lennon said. "So, there is some thoughts out there that if a yellow sign is put up for 25 MPH that it's still considered unposted because it's a suggestion. That's the way some municipalities get around that, so I see what your comment is by the suggested speed signs because it, technically, has to be unposted to be the 25 MPH."

"So could you repost it?" Fortin said.

Lennon said he could speak with the DPW director and look into the signs.

"I think our answer is, yes, we could definitely look into that if this passes," Lennon said.

Select Board Vice Chair Michael Squindo--speaking as a resident--voiced support, citing the information he found and thanking the police department for the studies they've done on the cut-through on Marchonis Road.

"The reason I support this is because the vast majority of folks who do cut through Marchonis, in fact, follow the posted speed of 30. That's not my concern," Squindo said. "My concern, really, is that the stats support a reduction in speed limits is a reduction in serious injury and fatalities to pedestrians who are walking along."

Squindo added while the town has been "pretty fortunate" in not having "a lot of those issues," he doesn't want to find out "that the day comes when somebody's going the posted speed limit, some issue happens at 30,

that at 25 may have resulted in less injury or fatality."

"So, I support this for that reason. I think most residents will follow and abide because they're law-abiding citizens," Squindo said.

Richard Howell noted speeds of 20 or 30 miles over the speed limit and knows this would be hard to enforce, sharing how he's made calls himself on Glenn Drive.

"I guess the question is, do you think five miles an hour would make a difference since many of those same vehicles--and I follow them--go onto Boston Road and go half the speed limit at that point? Would it have an impact because people do take those roads pretty dangerously," Howell said.

Lennon hopes with this on these side streets it would "bring the metric of the speed limit down" and set a community expectation for the speed limit to slow down to 25 MPH.

"Will that--and hopefully it will--will bring the metric down and maybe we don't get them down to 25 MPH. But maybe we get them down from 40 on a certain street to 30 or maybe we get them down a little more," Lennon said. "So, like I said, are we

Please see **SPEED LIMIT**, page 5

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MEALS TAX from page 1

again--first as a resident--asking if anyone had gone to the local restaurants for their thoughts on this.

“As I have learned, that didn’t happen. But, has it happened in the past weekend?” Mazzuca said.

Select Board Vice Chair Michael Squindo replied he could only speak for himself, but from what he’d heard from several individuals who spoke with restaurant owners.

“Those restaurant owners have either a) expected that this would be put in place when they bought their restaurant and put it in town or, simply, that it’s a one-time fee to the restaurant owner in terms of what it costs them to actually make the changes relative to this particular effort,” Squindo said. “But, that all the money that is collected is more effectively passed through to the individuals consuming, not paid for by the restaurant.”

“But, did we talk with the restaurants? Did we actually ask them ourselves?” Mazzuca said.

When Squindo said he didn’t believe any official action was taken by the town, Select Board Chair Sue Bunnell added a request was made to the local chamber of commerce “to see if they would be able to help us in that regard.”

“They indicated that they don’t poll members in that sort of a manner,” Bunnell said.

Mazzuca then spoke a third time--this time as chair of the Economic Development Committee--noting “one of the great things about Wilbraham” is “how we are a fantastic place to do business.”

“We’ve got a great road system, we’ve got a great tax rate, we have a number of different things and one of them that we do have--unlike most of the towns around us--is we don’t have the local option meal tax,” Mazzuca said. “So, it makes it a little easier for somebody to go and have their dinner or lunch at the restaurant and not have to worry about that little extra, and we’ve used that to promote to other restaurants, to other individuals, trying to get them into Wilbraham.”

Aurora Pierangelo Frias listed other communities besides Wilbraham that don’t have the tax which are Hampden, Chester, Granville, Holland, Montgomery, Russell, Southwick, Tolland and Wales.

“Our estimated revenue per quarter would be about \$46,000 that directly comes back to the town and like Mike said, the Finance Committee has already discussed funding--using that money potentially--to fund all of the potential articles that we just voted positively on,” Pierangelo Frias said.

Pierangelo Frias added even though Wilbraham doesn’t have the tax, restaurants in Springfield, Longmeadow and East Longmeadow do, so people are paying



Turley photos by Kristin Rivers

Select Board Vice Chair Michael Squindo reads the motion.



Judith Theocles, a former restaurant owner for 25 years, speaks.

it there.

“When you look at your total bill, it’s 0.75%, so a cup of coffee at Common Grounds, the additional tax would be pennies to your total bill,” Pierangelo Frias said.

Bunnell then shared how the tax works: if .75% is applied to a \$100 bill for a meal, it is a 75-cent charge.

“I think all of us probably eat in surrounding communities with about the same frequency that folks from other communities eat here in Wilbraham and I just believe nobody’s going to notice 75 cents on \$100,” Bunnell said.

Richard Howell explained he spoke to food service vendors and restaurants in town “over the last several months” and he hasn’t “met one who’s in favor or even neutral toward it.”

“As far as the amount of the tax goes, it is odd that every time there’s a tax--well, let’s say a little bit--but when it comes to a cut, ‘Well, we can’t do that,’” Howell said.

Howell added that Wilbraham is 90% residential and 10% commercial, with Hampden being “about the same” along with the other towns mentioned earlier.

“Those businesses that locate, don’t they locate into these areas as much? It’s harder, even with the growth that we’ve had here,” Howell said. “And with the prices going up, inflation starting to come down now, the cost is starting to come down, but they haven’t abated, and then it’s still a tax on everybody else that goes to eat there.”

On the tax paying for the veteran exemptions that were passed, Howell said, “I wouldn’t count on that.”

SPEED LIMIT from page 3

going to get them right there to 25? Maybe not, but maybe if we put this community expectation it’ll bring everything down and it may bring down the speed limits too.”

Joyce Rockwell’s concern was the metric of five miles an hour wouldn’t discourage those going 40, 45 and 50 MPH.

“For the law-abiding citizen, it’ll increase my anxiety because it’s not very hard to go slightly over 25 MPH. But, I think the concern in those heavily-settled--thickly-settled areas--is not somebody going 30 MPH, it’s somebody going 50,” Rockwell said.

After Rockwell noted no hard statistics were presented “that changing that rate would make a difference,” and the town is not like larger metropolitan areas where those thickly-settled areas would be impacted, she asked this.

“How many serious acci-

dents have been reported in the last year on those heavily-settled--or thickly-settled areas--where you could document that the speed limit was not greater than 30 MPH?” Rockwell said.

Lennon said he didn’t have that information in front of him but it could be put together, adding Rockwell’s point about vehicles “which speed to the excess” is valid.

“What would happen in this case, the fine would go up because that vehicle would now be speeding more excessively than is acceptable under that. It would be because it would add another five miles an hour to the violation,” Lennon said. “So in those types of things where we do have an excessively speeding motor vehicle that is stopped and fined, that would increase the fine.”

After Rockwell’s comments, Town Moderator Jane Clark noted the hour and proceeded to the vote.



Wilbraham United Church holding Handbell Concert on May 31

WILBRAHAM - The Wilbraham United Church will be the hosts of a Handbell Concert on Saturday May 31 at 7 p.m. featuring the Merrimack Valley Ringers, a nationally-known handbell group.

Currently celebrating their 23rd season, the Merrimack Valley Ringers are an auditioned community handbell ensemble devoted to sharing the art of handbells and handchimes with everyone. MVR’s members delight audiences with their infectious joy, and make it their goal to capture their audience from the first note with their gusto and warmth.

Considered partners in each performance, audiences are drawn in by the ensemble’s personality, spontaneity, and unflappable spirit. This spring, the Merrimack Valley Ringers Celestial Light program will take listeners “Up and Away” on a musical trip through time and space.

They will “Fly [You] to the Moon” so you can “Moondance” and then be “Walking on Sunshine”, on the “Fairy Hills”, all before the “Morning Light.”

The concert featuring five octaves of handbells and chimes and 17 ringers, led by founding Artistic Director

Karen Leonard begins at 7 p.m. in the church’s Sanctuary. The church is located at 500 Main Street in Wilbraham.

Parking is available in the rear parking lot and the church building is accessible. There is no charge for admittance, but a free-will offering will be accepted.

Prior to the concert during the afternoon, the Ringers will be offering a workshop to local handbell ringers.

Ringers interested in attending the workshop can register at <https://area1.handbellmusicians.org/state-and-local-events/western-ma-ringing-skills-workshop/>

Friends of Wilbraham Seniors Raffle Winner

WILBRAHAM - Heather Bean of Hampden was the excited winner of the “Warm Wishes” Quilt Raffle drawn at the Wilbraham Senior Center on May 2 by the Friends of Wilbraham Seniors.

This beautiful queen-size quilt was created and donated to the Friends by the Wilbraham Senior Center’s Quilting Group, who meet there once a week. Valerie Morton, the Quilt’s designer, donated the fabric and quilted one of the 20 blocks.

Other talented block Quilters were Liza Berezin, Ann Bezio, Mary Blanchette, Mindy Camyre, Barbara Farrell, Ellen Gatchell, Karen Gatchell, Janis Gilbert, Ann Guyotte, Karen Huntoon, Laurie Joaquim, Linda Kehoe, Lynne Miner, Cyndy Rymer, Carole Rys, Darlene Slater, Jackie Vicens, Judy Zeoli and machine quilter Cindy Nickerson.

The Friends thank the Quilting Group for this generous donation, as well as all who purchased raffle tickets to support this successful, special fundraiser. Funds received will be used by the



Friends to continue their support of the programs and services at the Wilbraham Senior Center.

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INFLATION

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VIEWPOINTS

SOCIAL SECURITY Matters

By Russell Gloor

Will ‘DOGE’ hurt our Social Security or Medicare benefits?

**Dear Rusty:**  
I am a new AMAC member and have an important question for you and your answer will be greatly appreciated.

My question is: Is the new DOGE effort going to help us, or hurt us, all those living on Social Security and receiving Medicare benefits? Please let us know soon. Regards: Worried Senior

Dear Worried Senior:  
Here at the AMAC Foundation, we offer free access to everyone, the public as well as AMAC members, for our acclaimed Social Security Advisory Service, at which we answer all inquiries from anyone with questions about Social Security and enrollment in Medicare.

As you can imagine, we very closely watch all action in Washington, D.C. which will affect Social Security and Medicare, especially any Congressional legislation being considered. The new Department of Government Efficiency organization is tasked with uncovering and eliminating fraud and waste in all areas of the Federal Government and that includes Social Security and Medicare. But the important thing to remember is that DOGE is seeking only to discover fraud and government waste.

Recently a great deal of visibility has been given to DOGE's efforts to discover potential fraud and waste in the Social Security Administration.

Everything we have seen thus far indicates that DOGE's efforts have identified opportunities for reducing fraud and waste at the Social Security Administration, so our expectation is that DOGE's efforts will tend to help the Social Security Administration become more efficient but not endanger anyone's Social Security benefits.

Indeed, President Trump and the DOGE team have repeatedly said that no cuts in Social Security benefits will occur as a result of DOGE's efforts. Reducing fraud and waste at the SSA would tend to improve the agency's financial posture and improve their ability to pay full benefits longer. The same is true for Medicare.

Actually, DOGE is very transparent and posts everything they find on this website: [www.doge.gov](http://www.doge.gov). A quick look at this website reveals that none of what they have found at the SSA indicates any threat to SS or Medicare benefits.

I suggest that any negative news media and social media accounts of DOGE's activities be taken with a grain of salt. All such articles are largely meant to attract attention to unlikely "doomsday" scenarios. The reality is that our government is over \$36 trillion in debt, and that debt is growing, which is an unsustainable financial path for our country.

DOGE is specifically tasked with eliminating the deficit gap by reducing frivolous government spending and fraud. But reducing crucial benefits for seniors on Social Security and Medicare are not part of DOGE's efforts, nor their goal.

Rest assured that here at the AMAC Foundation we are watching all current DOGE efforts very closely and will vigorously oppose anything which will negatively affect Social Security and Medicare. Indeed, AMAC's stated goal is to strengthen and preserve Social Security for all future generations.

*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](http://amacfoundation.org/programs/social-security-advisory) or email us at [ssadviser@amacfoundation.org](mailto:ssadviser@amacfoundation.org). Russell Gloor is a Social Security advisor for AMAC.*

in my BACKYARD

By Ellenor Downer

An Oakham couple saw their first Baltimore Oriole at their feeder on Monday, May 5.

I saw the first Baltimore oriole for this year on Tuesday, May 13. I heard it singing on two occasions, but I could not locate it. The male oriole's whistling song is often heard while the bright orange and black bird is perched in a tree top. They prefer tall trees in open areas.

The Baltimore oriole is a medium sized icterid black-bird common in eastern North America as a migratory breeding bird. It received its name from the resemblance of the male's colors to those on the

coat-of-arms of 17th-century Lord Baltimore. The female weaves a hanging basket nest. As a child, orioles nested in an elm tree in our yard and my family and I enjoyed watching the orioles from our porch.

Young male orioles don't molt into the bright orange of the adult until the fall of their second year. Until that time they resemble the drab, female plumage. However, females become deeper orange with every molt and some older females are almost as bright orange as males.

Orioles have a long pointed beak with a thick base. The male has a black head with black wings and tail. The wings also have white marks.

The Oakham couple also had a Bald Eagle in their yard.

Letters to the Editor

Reconsider Self-Storage Facility

**To The Editor:**

To: Mr. Yogi Rana  
From: Hampden, Mass. Self Storage Committee  
Re: Informational package

It has come to our attention that your firm may be considering exercising the rights associated with the Special Permit granted for a self-storage facility at 2 Somers Road in Hampden, Massachusetts. We strongly urge you to reconsider this course of action considering the substantial and growing community opposition, along with several key practical and market-based concerns:

Over 500 residents — a significant portion of Hampden's population — have formally opposed the construction of a self-storage facility on this site. This is not just a matter of preference, but a coordinated, long-standing effort rooted in genuine concern for the town's character and future.

In a clear expression of civic will, a majority of residents voted to increase the town's legal defense fund in order to appeal the Special Permit. The site lies atop a vulnerable aquifer and is adjacent to a scenic gateway into town. The project is fundamentally out of step with Hampden's rural identity — a standard explicitly protected under our zoning bylaws and the Master Plan.

Three experienced and well-capitalized storage investors have already walked away from this opportunity. Among them: Patriot Holdings, a national private equity firm managing more than three million square feet across 70+ self-storage sites, currently in the midst of raising its fifth fund targeting \$80–\$100 million in New England alone. After conducting due diligence, they chose not to pursue the project — a clear signal about the site's risks and community resistance.

Market saturation and limited demand are real concerns. The only existing storage facility within Hampden has not received a single rental inquiry in over two years. Rental prices have remained flat for more than seven years — strong indicators of an oversupplied local market with little unmet need.

Perhaps most importantly, there is active local interest in alternative, community-driven development. Residents, including accredited investors, have expressed a willingness to explore more suitable, economically viable uses for the property — ones that would align with the town's values and character, rather than provoke deep and lasting opposition.

In short, this project faces not only formidable public resistance but also significant legal, reputational, and financial headwinds. Hampden residents are not anti-growth; we are pro-community. We welcome development that respects the town's unique identity and long-term vision — but we will continue to oppose developments that threaten them.

We respectfully ask that you take this full context into account before proceeding. If you wish to speak with members of the community or review records from previous proceedings, I would be happy to connect you with that information.

**Resident Jeff Grassetti**  
**Resident Joe Sibilia**

A little of this and a little of that

I went outside yesterday to assess the damage after nearly five inches of rain fell from last Thursday night through Saturday mid day.

To say that I was mortified was an understatement. My pea seedlings were underwater, there was a river flowing into the trenches that my newly planted potatoes were in, and the floor of my greenhouse literally had an empty bucket floating in it.

Although the water table has fallen in the last 24 hours, I still wonder when, if ever, I will be able to plant the parts of my garden still covered in winter rye, as tilling it in might not happen until July, and that's if we don't get anymore rain. I was mad about it all day, because this was the year I was going to have the best garden ever.

My transplants look fantastic, and I have all sorts of seedlings going in succession, so that, for example, my broccoli and cauliflower don't ripen all at once. How will I ever plant them, I thought?

The day ended and a new day came, and with it joy in the morning. The standing water was gone, at least, and so was my desire to pack it all up and move to a condominium. Maybe there is hope.

I spent Mother's Day gardening after all, in higher parts of the yard, and it was a good day.

While I was working among the plants I made note that the lily leaf beetle has arrived. Handpicking and destroying the bright red insects over the last couple of years has thankfully inspired a resurgence in my patch of tiger lilies. It can in yours too!

Search out adults early in the season, beginning in mid April, when they are hanging around looking for a mate or in the process of mating. Pick them up and drop them into soapy water.

Well seasoned and especially fed-up gardeners can simply squish the bug. That's me.



Chances are you won't be able to get every adult before some eggs are laid. Find them on the undersides of the leaves; they are brownish-red in color, and are easily "done in" by running your thumb along the vein of the leaf.

If you miss some eggs, dealing with the larva is your final option before real damage ensues. Squishing the slug-like, poop-covered larvae deserves a "bravest gardener of the year" award- hard to do even by this "well-seasoned and especially fed-up" gardener's standards!

If you just can't bring yourself to handle the bug-gers, try an insecticide made from neem extract. Although neem is a botanical, it is not to be sprayed when bees are out. Using it in the evening is a good option.

My peony plants have put on some nice buds. All but one of my plants had already been staked, and the one that wasn't is on the small side, perfect to be put in one of those circular tomato cages.

Please see **GARDEN**, page 12

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](mailto: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](mailto: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.



Photo by Sean Blood  
**Baltimore oriole**

was doing it. A real monster that my 40 lb dog chased off."

**Brimfield birds**  
A Brimfield resident said, "Last week in the yard the first ruby-throated hummingbird (male), phoebe and a house wren were seen."

He said, "In Warren it looks like the ospreys are incubating eggs." He also said, "I have several black swallow-tailed butterfly chrysalises in my garage that I need to get into the daylight now that the weather seems to be more spring like. Last year, he and his wife overwintered three and they all emerged and flew away."

**Peregrine falcon cameras**  
Peregrine falcons are the fastest birds on Earth. They live throughout the world, including right here in Massachusetts! Several web cameras allow the pub-

Please see **BACKYARD**, page13



Life in &

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

# WILBRAHAM HAMPDEN

A COMMUNITY GALLERY

## WPL enjoys Silent Movies



Submitted photos Emilie Lang  
Attendees enjoyed Pianist Richard Hughes presenting The Golden Age of Silent Movies at the Wilbraham Public Library on May 12. The presentation included a selection of early cartoons, historical dramas, serial thrillers, and slap-stick comedies featuring legends like Harold Lloyd, Charlie Chaplin and Buster Keaton brought to life through sound effects and live musical accompaniment. Audience members also got to synchronize sound effects to a 1913 melodrama using animation devices. The program was sponsored by the Friends of the Wilbraham Public Library.



## HSC Friends get ready to shred!



Submitted photo Joan Shea  
The Friends of Hampden Senior Citizens were already off to a great start for their Shred Event on May 16 with Kathleen Rochford presenting a donation to Friends Vice-President Joan Shea.

COMMUNITY BULLETIN BOARD

Happy Birthday Alison Aucoin!!

Love, Mom & Dad, Family and Friends

Happy 15<sup>th</sup> Birthday Harlowe!!

Your kindness, creativity and light make the world better every day. You're strong, smart, funny and beautiful inside and out. Keep working hard and loving big. I'm so proud to be your mom and can't wait to watch you continue to shine. Love you bbg!



## Red Hatters celebrate Cinco de Mayo

Submitted photo and caption Cheryl Phillips  
Hola!! The Red Hatters celebrated Cinco de Mayo at the Wilbraham Senior Center on Wednesday, May 7. "All That's Mexican" was the theme. They celebrated with music, food and a Wheel of Fortune game complete with prizes. Chair ladies were Kathy Sowa and Janet Vitkus.



## Books, books and more books!

Submitted photos Emilie Lang  
Last week's Wilbraham Friends of the Library Book Sale at the Wilbraham Public Library was a huge success as highlighted in last week's Times. Before the sale on May 7 through 10, take a look at the number of books that were donated to this year's event by the community.



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

Grateful for the brave men and women who made the ultimate sacrifice for our freedom.

WE REMEMBER AND HONOR THEIR SELFLESS SERVICE.







Wilbraham Middle School Teacher Amy Schulze enjoying an opportunity for tourism while in Senegal.



A group shot of Wilbraham Middle School Teacher Amy Schulze with her fellow Fulbright teachers.



Wilbraham Middle School Teacher Amy Schulze in a photo with some of the students she met during her Fulbright program adventure in Senegal.

**SCHULZE** from page 1

was pretty fun,” Schulze said.

Her big takeaway from the experience was this.

“People in Senegal do not have the resources that we have here in the States, but they are incredibly hard-working, they are making the best of what they have. I mean, I had students coming up to me all the time saying, ‘Speak English with me.’ One student said, ‘English is freedom.’ Like they really feel like if they know English, that’s going to open up opportunities for them,” Schulze said. “So, I was trying to practice my high school French and they were like, ‘No no no, speak English.’ They wanted to speak English and they were just really open to the ideas that we had.”

Another thing that struck Schulze was the classrooms, which have 50 to 80 students in one class and they stay in the same classroom all day as varying teachers come in to teach.

“They did not have hands-on activities. A lot of it is the students writing, copying off of the board,” Schulze said. “I watched one physics class where students wrote for over an hour, but they were attentive, they were engaged when the teacher would ask questions, they were right with him. So, they’re really making the best out of what they have.”

Schulze said the journey began last year when finishing up her Master’s in Educational Leadership at Mount Holyoke College where there were guest speakers who talked about opportunities, so she applied for them.



Wilbraham Middle School Teacher Amy Schulze teaching students while in Senegal for the Fulbright Teachers for Global Classrooms Program.

“I was accepted into a couple of different programs and I ended up choosing to go with the Fulbright program this year, which was great, and I think the more you get into this community, the more opportunities you see,” Schulze said.

Schulze stressed “We live in a global society” after sharing how she and others recently learned the Fulbright program would be cut by the State Department in the proposed next fiscal year budget at the federal level.

“Our students need to know how to work with other people. They need to learn how to work with other cultures and their expectations and I feel like we can’t isolate ourselves. This is not the time to do that and I think the opportunity that I have, I was able to bring that back to my students and talk about ‘Look at what the conditions are like in Senegal’ ‘Look at what we have,’ ‘What can we do?’ How can we reach out?” Schulze said.

Since returning home, she heard from a student in Senegal who wanted to practice his conversational English, which led to an opportunity for her own students to connect.

“In a class of 50 to 80, you don’t get to do that, and some of the students at Wilbraham Middle School said, ‘Yeah, I’d like to talk with him’ and so, I think that beginning of that connection is really, really critical to future success, our country’s success,” Schulze said.

Outside of teaching, Schulze also enjoyed spending time with her fellow teachers and touring parts of Senegal including going on a safari, a riverboat tour and visiting the African Renaissance Monument in Dakar, showing how African people rose from bondage and slavery and looked forward.

“I think a lot of Senegalese culture is about holding

tight to customs and traditions and respecting that, but also that desire to move forward,” Schulze said.

Schulze expressed her gratitude to WMS for supporting this opportunity, encouraging fellow teachers to apply for the Fulbright Program and other programs out there.

“I think what it shows is that our students are curious about other cultures and I think we need to foster that and develop that so we can be players on that world stage. I think students in Wilbraham have a lot to offer the world, and making those connections is going to help them do that,” Schulze said.

Her message to the community was this.

“I would say to the community we appreciate any support that they can give the schools. I know funding is tight, but our students are a valuable resource and we need to develop them. We need to give them opportunities and that includes making sure that our teachers are well-trained and have opportunities and feel fulfilled and able to bring back these rich experiences to their students,” Schulze said. “So, that support financially, being visible in schools, encouraging their students to have a global perspective is huge.”



Photos courtesy of Amy Schulze  
Wilbraham Middle School Teacher Amy Schulze meets lions while on safari.



A rock created by a Wilbraham Middle School student is now a part of Senegal, a rock WMS Teacher Amy Schulze brought with her during her Fulbright Program in the country.



A shot of Senegalese people traveling by donkey.



Wilbraham Middle School Teacher Amy Schulze in front of a sign for a school in Senegal.

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WILBRAHAM

Hill Climb



A 1913 Hudson 6-54 was the oldest car to climb the hill.



George Holman (left) and mechanic Ron Bushey in the 1899 Haynes-Apperson motor carriage they restored.



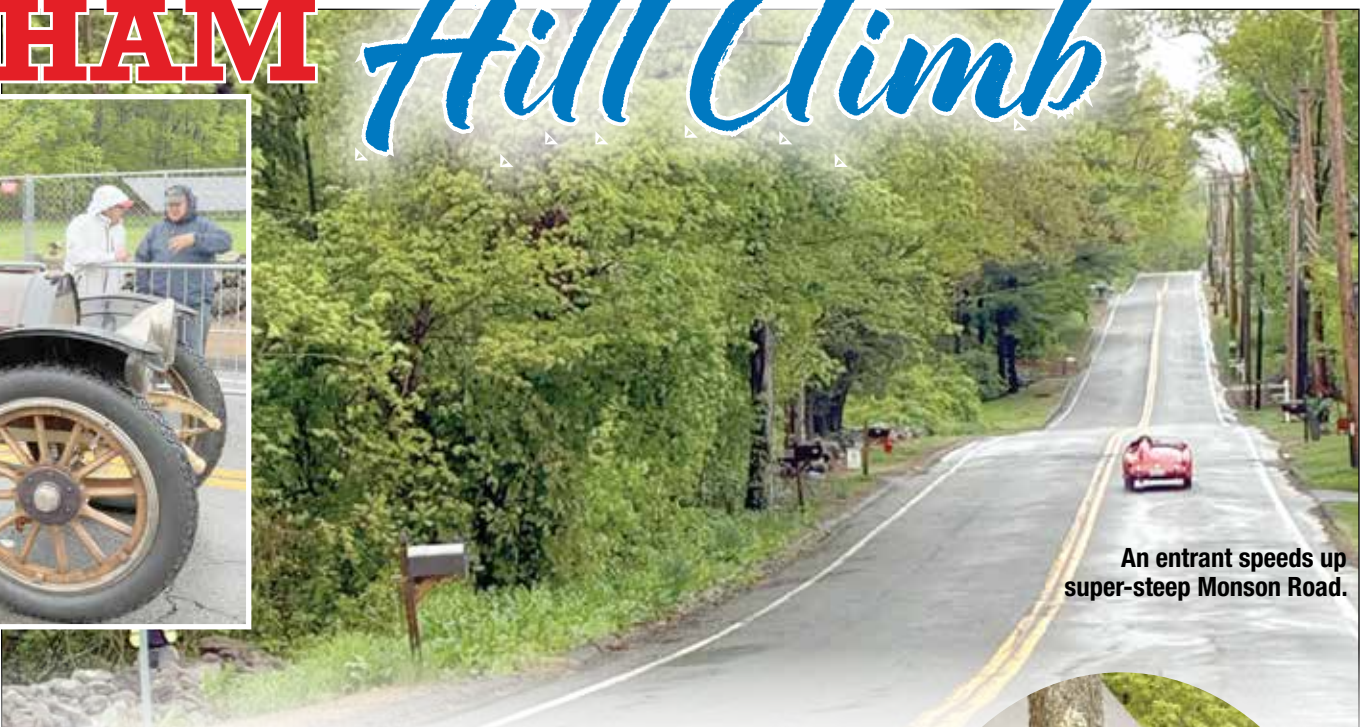
Cars line up for their turn to race.



Fans enjoyed a good view of the cars climbing Monson Road.



This custom MG won the hill climb in 46.76 seconds.



An entrant speeds up super-steep Monson Road.

**HILL CLIMB** from page 1

vived the historic Hill Climb in 2013. Jeff DeMarey of Hampden now organizes the event, presented by the Springfield to Boston Education Foundation, a nonprofit that strives to educate students at all levels about antique transportation.

“We want to get people excited and interested in this world and give them an opportunity to learn more and meet others with the same passion,” DeMarey said.

What’s special about the Hill Climb, DeMarey continued, is that it gives the public the rare chance to see vintage racers in motion.

“You see how they move, hear how they sound, they’re not just on a lot,” DeMarey said.

As the green flag dropped for antique cars of all makes and vintages, some purred to a start, others roared and a couple put-putted up the hill.

With a low growl, a robin’s-egg-blue Ford 1966 GT40 driven by Ben Levy from Boston launched the race in an exhibition run.

The GT40, so called because it is only 40 inches from the road to the roof, is a superstar car. It won Le Mans four consecutive times and was featured in the film “Ford vs. Ferrari.”

While the multimillion-dollar GT40 was the most valuable car at the event, David Geanakopolous’s 1913 Hudson 6-54 was the oldest to make the climb.

His antique car labored on its first mile run, reach-

ing the finish line in 2:17.

“I had to shift down, but I made it,” Geanakopolous said. “I’ll hang in second gear longer next time to see if I can get a little momentum.”

Even older was a 1899 Hayes-Apperson, a true museum piece that looks like a buggy with a fringe on top. Working with mechanic Ron Bushey, Holman recently restored the antique car to running condition. They drove it to the starting line—but not up the hill.

The 2024 Hill Climb Champion, James Maloney, returned to Wilbraham in his winning car, a 1932 Ford 5-Window outfitted with a powerful Buick nailhead engine from the 1960s.

“He’s been messing with old cars since before he could drive,” said his mother, Pattie Maloney.

She served as her son’s impromptu pit crew, wiping his windshield between runs.

After a slippery shift from first to second gear, Maloney completed his first ascent in 59.96 seconds. He then tried straddling the center line to gain more traction.

“I’m going to take a different approach every time. I have to remember I have the whole road,” he said.

“That’s my boy,” said his mother, as the boxy black Ford screeched to a start on its second ascent, in which

Maloney reduced his time by four seconds.

By his final attempt, Maloney had sped up the hill in 47.85 seconds, cutting .55 seconds from his winning 2024 time and good for second place this year.

Third place, 48.56 seconds, went to Herman Will, driving a 1953 Kurtis.

Tom Ellsworth of Essex, Mass., received the new Holman Heritage Award for carrying on the spirit of vintage automobile competition in his 1932 Ford Amilcar Special.

The crowd grew throughout the day, which started out drizzly but soon cleared. Pro Announcers Brad Phillips and Steve Magnante shared their immense knowledge of cars with the crowd as the road dried.

“We call rain liquid horsepower,” observed Magnante.

Wayne Carini, host of Motor Trend’s “Chasing Classic Cars,” enjoyed the drive along Ridge Road as he descended the hill in his tomato-red 1958 Fiat



Vanessa Ford, associate director of the Community Music School of Springfield, poured her heart into the National Anthem.

Stanguellini.

“I had a blast,” Carini said. “There are some beautiful homes and views up there.”

The day also included a car show featuring more than 200 cars, craft booths, food trucks and auto-related exhibitors.

Dennis Lessard of Belchertown welcomed the public into a trolley built around 1900 that was later converted to a motor home with a 1924 Buick truck chassis. Lessard devoted 18 months to restoring it, including pounding 540 rivets in by hand.

The 27-mile drive to the car show was the RV’s maiden voyage.

“It runs great!” Lessard said. “Restoring unusual old vehicles is my disease. I spent \$1,300 in screws alone on this one.”

Sisters Katy and Zara Letterer, whose house is on the Wilbraham Hill Climb starting line, watched the race with their friend Emerson Judd.

Zara spoke for many in the crowd when she said: “I love watching the Hill Climb every year. I love all the old cars. Every one has its own special qualities.”



ABOVE: 2024 Hill Climb winner James Maloney and his dog, Luna.

Turley photos by Patricia Sullivan

RIGHT: Donald Law in his 1954 Jaguar 120, the fastest car of its day. “I’m a sucker for a pretty car,” he said.



The center of Wilbraham was filled with lovingly restored show cars on the day of the hill climb.





A shot of families fishing along the Scantic River during the 63rd Annual Kids Fishing Derby hosted by the VFW Post 9397.

# 63rd Annual Kids Fishing Derby

## DERBY

from page 1  
by to meet with attendees and show off his canoe rack filled with six canoes.

The event was made possible through support from VFW Post 9397, the Women's Auxiliary from Post 9397, Rice Fruit Farm, Village Food Mart, Monson Savings Bank, Mass Wildlife, Krazy Jake's, The Grog Shoppe, Koffee Tyme, Reid's Corner, The Hampden House, JP McCarthy Monson Terminal, John McCarthy, CJ's Towing and Granby Bait Shoppe.

Incoming Commander David Demers--who will succeed Outgoing Commander Heath Joseph--was humbled by the community support and added how it's the VFW's way of giving back to the community.

"The VFW is extremely grateful for all the people donating, all their time and what little they can do or what big they can do, it doesn't matter to us. We appreciate just the donations because it's for the kids," Demers said. "The kids are the most important in this community. We have people that still here fish with their parents and they came here when they fished their first time ever at the Fishing Derby and, now, they have their kids and they're fishing here for the first time. It means a lot to the VFW and to the entire community that we can have the opportunity to be here on the Scantic so they can all learn to fish at no cost to them."

Demers said the VFW Post most enjoys the camaraderie.

"Just the smiles on the kids' faces. Like just seeing them, 'I caught a fish! I caught a fish!' They're absolutely hysterical. Just the kids when they take the fish out of the net and then put them in a bucket and they get to walk around, walk over and put the fish where they're going to fish, 'I'm going to catch that fish that I just put in the wa-



A group photo of this year's Kids Fishing Derby winners with Incoming VFW Post 9397 Commander David Demers and Hampden Fire Department Lt. Joshua Sterling, who served as this year's judge.

ter!' It really means a lot, just their reactions," Demers said.

Sterling--adorned with a Nemo hat alongside his fellow firefighters for the occasion--was enjoying the festivities, with an attendee coming up with their catch during our interview.

"We got a beautiful little rainbow trout that is eight and a half inches," Sterling said. "Are you going to bring that back? There you go."

He shared the event brings the fire department out to the community.

"It's just good for us to get out into the public, into the public's eye. Usually, you don't see the fire department unless we're coming to your house," Sterling said. "So, any chance that we get to interact, talk with the kids, answer their questions, is a good day for us."

Sterling said the VFW also provides support to the fire department.

"The VFW provides a lot of support for us. They let us

do the fundraising here when we do our fundraisers. The shirts are new this year, we usually do a Christmas raffle, so they let us sell the tickets here," Sterling said. "They put on the Memorial Day Parade, we put on the Hotdog Social after it, so we work hand in hand with that. It's just giving back to those who've given so much to our community and to the nation."

For Crivelli, events like this inspire the next generation of fishing enthusiasts.

"I'm so excited. Being able to connect with some of the families, some of the youth in the community, it's awesome," Crivelli said. "We just had our own fishing derby at Robinson State Park on May 3. We had 45 participants show up. It was awesome, just an amazing experience. The kids loved it, catching fish and we're very excited to be doing it again next year."

Crivelli hoped everyone got the chance to catch a fish and learn more about fishing.

Also, learn about local organizations like his that foster a love for fishing and the outdoors.

"It's really great just to get the community out in nature and let them know about the Scantic River. We got it right here in our backyard and it's got so many fish," Crivelli said. "It's just a beautiful location and it's just awesome to see the youth and the families out here getting out in nature and just enjoying the springtime."

Demers encouraged the community to check out the VFW's upcoming events and continue lending their support.

"The message I have for the community is thank you very much for volunteering in any way that they possibly could and giving us this opportunity to have our 63rd Annual Fishing Derby and the message to everyone out here today: have fun, catch some fish!" Demers said.



Another close-up of Hampden Fire Dept. Lt. Joshua Sterling measuring a fish.



Incoming VFW Post 9397 Commander David Demers and Giancarlo Crivelli, founder/executive director of Fishing Friends Inc., shake hands in this photo.



Hampden Fire Dept. Lt. Joshua Sterling measures a fish caught by one of the attendees.



A close-up of attendees fishing along the Scantic River.

Turley photos by Kristin Rivers

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# SPORTS

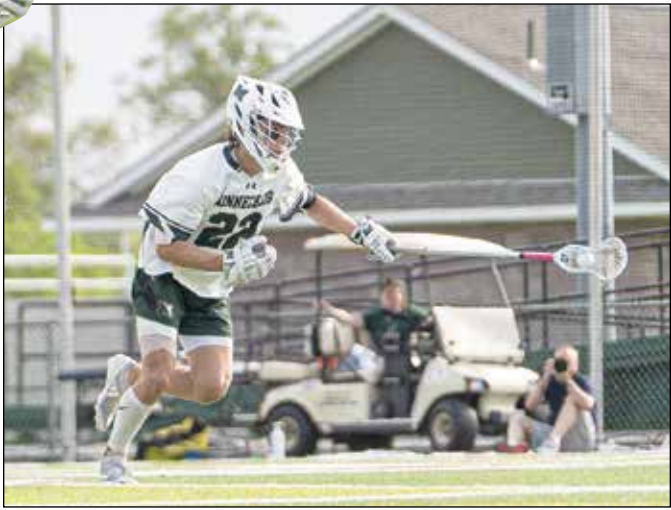
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Collin Meunier looks for an open teammate.



Ethan Kelliher keeps the ball away from an opponent

WILBRAHAM – With the exception of a loss against Glastonbury of Connecticut, the Minnechaug Regional High School boys lacrosse team has a near perfect record. After the loss, Minnechaug defeated Agawam and South Hadley to end the week and are 15-1 heading into the Western Mass. tournament. The Falcons will also likely earn a high seed in the state tournament.

Tommy O'Toole winds up looking to shoot.



Turley photos by Sofia DiGrande



Matt Beaudim is closely guarded as he tries to shoot.



Devin Purchas looks to overcome the defense.



Liam Harrigan tries to defend the Minnechaug goal.

## Regular season ends with pair of wins

WILBRAHAM – The Minnechaug Regional High School girls lacrosse grabbed two wins, defeating Westfield 11-5 and South Hadley 16-13 to finish up the regular season with a 6-11 record. The Falcons have a matchup with Leominster scheduled for May 20. The Falcons still have a potential shot at the state tournament. The most recent power rankings reflected Minnechaug at 5-11, and in the No. 35 ranking. If the Falcons can move up a few more spots, they would finish in the Top 32 to qualify for the Division 2 state tournament.

## IAA holds annual meeting

FRANKLIN – More than 250 principals, assistant principals and athletic directors from throughout the Commonwealth attended the MIAA 46th Annual Meeting – “A Celebration of Leadership and Service in Support of Educational Athletics” – held Wednesday, April 2 at the Doubletree Hotel in Westborough.

Highlighting the event was a performance by the Mighty Singing Falcons from Foxborough Regional Charter School, under the direction of Evelyn D. Lee.

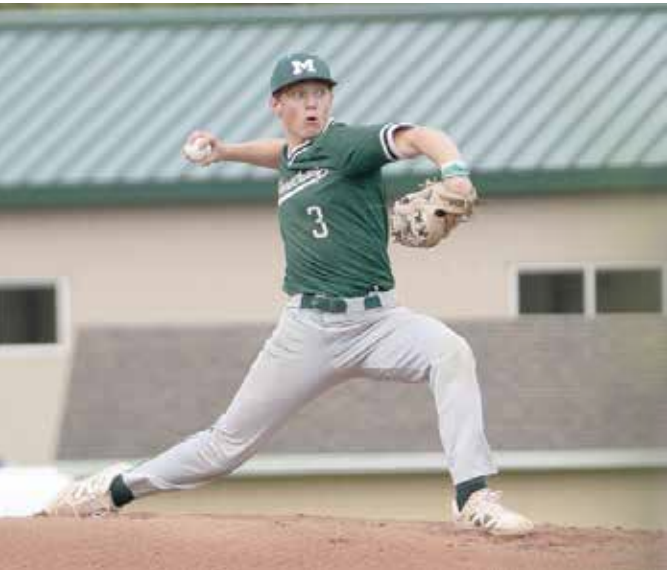
The day began with the annual MIAA business meeting, presided over by outgoing MIAA president Stephanie Sibley, who was presented with a rocking chair in appreciation of her service to the association and the Board of Directors.

In his Executive Director Report, Dr. Bob Baldwin reviewed the accomplishments of the Board and the association over the previous year, and also presented several “What’s Next” potential initiatives:

- Standardized Annual Calendar for Interscholastic Athletics
- An objective process to adopt and/or remove an MIAA sponsored sport
- Power ranked sports standards for Number of Championship Divisions
- Establish a Division 1A component of the statewide tournament

The Board also recognized several retiring athletic directors and officials for their dedication and service to the MIAA

## Falcons have even record heading into final week

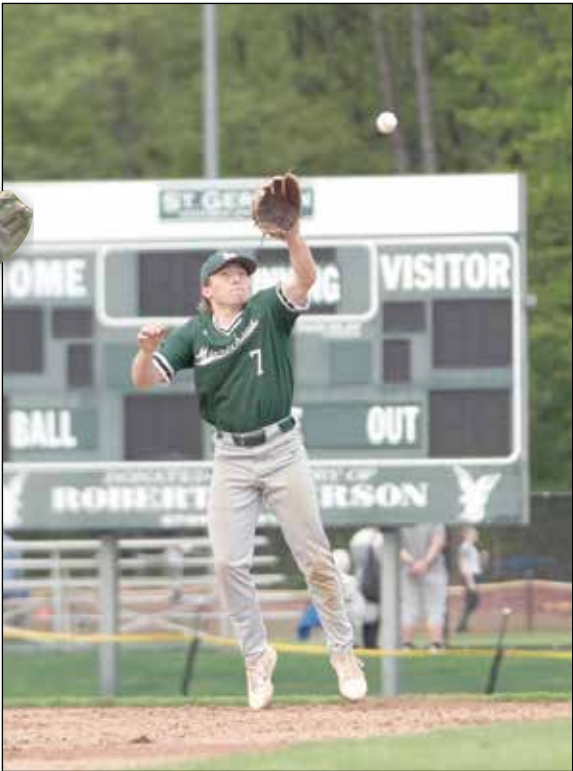


Turley photos by Sofia DiGrande  
Evan Liverseidge sends a pitch away.

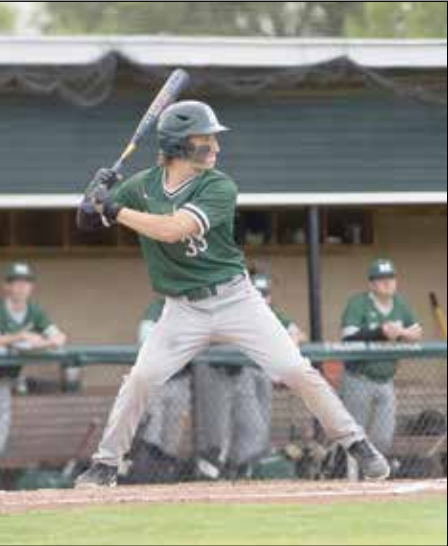
WILBRAHAM – Last Tuesday night, Minnechaug Regional High School baseball lost 9-4 against Westfield. The Falcons would follow that with a win over East Longmeadow and then a loss last Saturday at Leominster to finish the regular season at 8-8. The Falcons will face West Springfield and Wahconah this week to try and stay at .500 or above in order to make the state tournament.



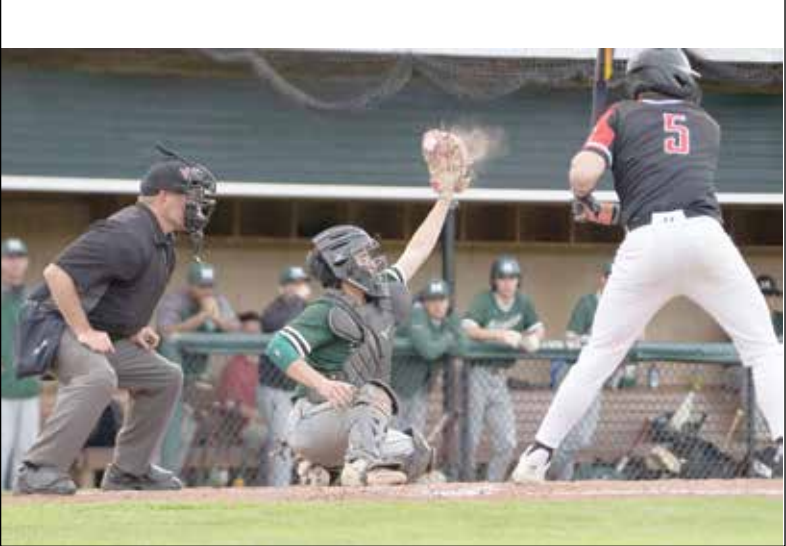
Paul Diehl hustles for first base.



Ben Daniels jumps up and makes a catch.



Aiden Rodrigues gets ready to swing.



Alex Savlick keeps a high pitch from getting away.



Bryce Barlow fires over to first.



SPORTS

# Zullo picks up win at Monadnock

WINCHESTER, N.H. – Dylan Zullo won his first career Super Street victory Saturday, May 10, at Monadnock Speedway, topping the season opener at the high banked quarter-mile.

Jimmy Zellman made the move of the night to snatch victory in the Pure Stock main event, while Kyle Templeton had his way in the Mini Stocks. Fourteen-year-old Sofia Rego won the night’s Young Guns feature, while Adam Lovejoy topped a spirited field of Pro V8 Sportsmen.

After rain forced postponement of the oval’s scheduled 2025 season opener two weeks ago, a large field of competitors filled the pits Saturday, as the popular NASCAR sanctioned speed-plant began its 55th season of competition.

Moisture still present at the top of the track and the dew coming in prevented the scheduled All State Materials Group 604 Modified feature from being run safely, but a stout field of 19 open-wheelers were on hand to time trial in preparation for next Saturday’s twin features. Second generation hot shoe Andrew

Brousseau was fastest on the clock Saturday, blistering the high banks with a lap of 12.343 seconds, after fast-timing in practice at 12.288.

Firing from the pole, teen star JD Stockwell led the first 14 laps of the Twin State Truck Services Super Street main event Saturday. Dylan Zullo, though, was on a rail

The second-generation Claremont pilot moved up to second on lap nine, quickly pulling up to Stockwell’s bumper and riding there until low-lining out of turn two to take command on lap 14. Zullo would then shoot ahead to score his first career Monadnock Super Street victory four lengths ahead of Stockwell.

Strong all night, Zach Zilinski came home third, with Hillary Renaud winning a hard-fought battle over Erik Smith for fourth.

Jimmy Zellman came up just a handful of points shy of last summer’s Pure Stock championship. Bidding to improve on that finish this time around, the Bay State blaster won a thriller Saturday with a masterful move as the Brattleboro Towing

& Recovery Pure Stocks restarted lap 22.

Carlos Grenier, who’d taken the lead from Colton Hull on lap three, seemed to have the field covered, including Zellman, who’d followed him to the front on the same go-round. But a Carter Chamberlin looper in turn two brought Zellman to Grenier’s side, and potent Kyle Kenny to his back bumper.

With Zellman refiring from the top of the track, Kenny was poised to low-line his way to second. But Zellman wasn’t buying it.

Firing like a missile at the drop of the green, Zellman beat Grenier into turn one and held him in his shadow to win a thriller. Kenny was strong in third, with Hull fourth and Markus O’Neil impressing in fifth.

Kyle Templeton, who entered Saturday’s Fabian Fuels Mini Stock main event with two Claremont feature wins already to his credit this season, kept that dominant streak intact, taking the lead from John Fultz on lap six and then soaring off to win with ease.

Behind Templeton, the action was fast and furious.

Former track champ Louie Maher rocketed into second when Fultz slowed on lap 19, and Young Gun alumnus Zach Zilinski, made a late-race charge through the field to earn opening night’s bronze medal finish.

Adam Lovejoy took charge on lap four of the Pro V8 Sportsman feature and never looked back. If he had, he’d have seen Jimmy Renfrew Sr. charging through the pack. Renfrew got up for second on lap seven, but could never find the fast path past Lovejoy.

The visiting rear-wheel drive competitors raced three-across and nose-to-tail for all 25 laps without drawing a caution flag. At the checkers, Scott Riggleman, who’d hauled in from 300 miles away, finished the race in third.

In the youth division Doug’s Auto Body Young Guns 15-lapper, second-year driver Sofia Rego led all the way to score her first career victory. Hunter Duquette rode in her shadow until wobbling on lap 11, but then recovered to come home second. Maya Bell was third on the night.

SCHOOLS

## Wilbraham-Hampden Scholarship Foundation 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 \$79,500. 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 28.

You can also enter by making a payment through PayPal using the QR code or

by visiting [wilbraham-hampdenscholarshipfoundation.org/donate](http://wilbraham-hampdenscholarshipfoundation.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-hampdenscholarshipfoundation.org/donate](http://wilbraham-hampdenscholarshipfoundation.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 2025 graduates of Minnechaug.

*Sincerely,*

**The Board of the Wilbraham-Hampden Scholarship Foundation**



## Massachusetts Golf Hall to have new inductees

BOSTON – In celebration of Mass Golf’s 125th anniversary, the Massachusetts Golf Hall of Fame is inducting its largest class to date, including seven indi-

viduals who are being recognized for their outstanding contributions to the game.

For the first time, the Hall of Fame will also introduce a select group of 10 inductees

as “Pioneers,” a newly established category recognizing early trailblazers who helped lay the foundation of golf in Massachusetts. These Pioneers include the founders of both the Women’s Golf Association of Boston/Women’s Golf Association of Massachusetts and the Massachusetts Golf Association.

“This is a truly special moment for Mass Golf,” said Thomas F. Bagley III,

Committee Chairman of the Massachusetts Golf Hall of Fame. “As we celebrate 125 years of our organization’s history, it’s only fitting that we honor a class this expansive and diverse. Their contributions have helped shape the wide-reaching legacy of golf in Massachusetts, and each of them has rightfully earned their place among the legends enshrined in the Hall of Fame.”

The official induction ceremony will take place as part of the Mass Golf Annual Meeting, featuring an early afternoon ceremony and luncheon on Oct. 16 at Thorny Lea Golf Club in Brockton. More details will be released at a later date.

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## Run for Rice’s 5K Road Race set for June 7

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

This popular, family-friendly 5K road race begins at Christ the King – Epiphany Church, 758 Main Street, Wilbraham, MA, and winds through a flat, fast course in surrounding neighborhoods, ending at Rice Fruit Farm across the street from the start. Pre-registration fee for runners and walkers is \$20, while day-of-race registration is \$25.

Ages 18 and under registration is \$15 including day-of registration.

Race day registration will be open from 7:30 a.m. until 8:45 a.m. Online registration is available at [RunSignUp.com](http://RunSignUp.com).



The following students comprise the 18 Under 18 Class of 2025:

- Abigail Drumm, Agawam High School
- Abigail Jolin, Quaboag Regional Middle/High School
- Arianna Hopkins, West Springfield High School
- Asher Rose, Southwick Regional School
- Caidence Goodreau, Chicopee Comprehensive High School

School

- Cameryn Valentin, Holyoke High School
- Howard Wichert, Pathfinder Regional Vocational Technical School
- Juliana Gadouas, Chicopee Comprehensive High School
- Kassandra Perry, Palmer High School
- Laiyla Arroyo, Springfield Honors Academy
- Lorie Perez, Libertas Academy Charter School
- Mackenzie DaFonseca, Minnechaug Regional High School
- Olivia Latorre-Williamson, Joseph Metcalf School
- Rebecca Mlapah, Longmeadow High School
- Samantha Dean, Agawam High School
- Samantha Rodriguez, Holyoke High School
- Soraya Blissett, Roger L. Putnam Vocational Technical Academy
- Yumalai Melendez, Roger L. Putnam Vocational Technical Academy

Nominations for 18 Under 18 were open to anyone 18 years or younger who attends school in Hampden, Hampshire, Franklin or Berkshire counties, as well as the Quabbin, Quaboag and Tantasqua regional school districts and the state of Vermont.

### GARDEN from page 6

I was sprinkling fertilizers as I weeded and groomed, but I left the fertilizer out when I came to these old-timers. Too much nitrogen for peonies can be a no-no; instead of making more flowers, it can actually cause them to abort, or just develop lots of leaves at the expense of flowers.

I just got word from a friend that there is a frost warning for tonight. Although I didn’t see frost in my area, I did see that temperatures may fall to around 37 degrees.

Alas, peppers and tomato transplants would revolt in an unheated greenhouse at those temperatures. Out I go,

trucking them in to the kitchen, tray by tray. At least I am not up to my ankles in water tonight.

I guess it is all part of the wonderful ups and downs of gardening in New England, or anywhere else for that matter!

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

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## SERVICES

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## AUTO

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## HELP WANTED

**SALES SUPPORT SPECIALIST**  
For over 60 years The Holy Rood Guild at St. Joseph's Abbey in Spencer, Massachusetts, known for the exceptional quality and fine tailoring of liturgical vestments, is seeking a Sales Support Specialist. Excellent communication and computer skills required. Respectful, positive interaction with clergy and religious organizations necessary. Experience in sales, artistic design, and customer service a plus.  
For more information and to apply, contact Fr. Stephen Shanahan at **(774) 315-3107** or by email: **brstephenofstjoe@yahoo.com. holyroodguild.com.**

The Town of Huntington is seeking a **FULL-TIME HIGHWAY TRUCK DRIVER/EQUIPMENT OPERATOR/LABORER.**

Applicants must possess at least a Massachusetts Class D driver's license. Class A or B CDL with Air Brake Endorsement is preferred. Must possess or be able to obtain 2B or higher & 4G Hoisting Engineer's licenses within 6 months of hire. \$22.00 to \$28.79 per hour based on qualifications. Application and complete job description are available online at **www.huntingtonma.us** or by emailing **admin@huntingtonma.us**. Position is open until filled. *Town of Huntington is an Equal Opportunity Employer.*

## HELP WANTED

The Town of Huntington is seeking a **PART-TIME ASSISTANT TAX COLLECTOR.**  
18 hours per week to be worked Monday through Thursday, 10:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. \$20.00 to \$22.00 per hour based on experience. Application and complete job description are available online at **www.huntingtonma.us** or by emailing **admin@huntingtonma.us**. Position is open until filled. *Town of Huntington is an Equal Opportunity Employer.*

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## REAL ESTATE

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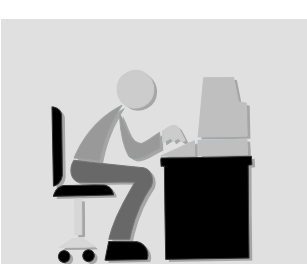
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**ALL REAL ESTATE** advertised herein is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act, which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference, limitation, or discrimination because of race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status, or national origin, 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.



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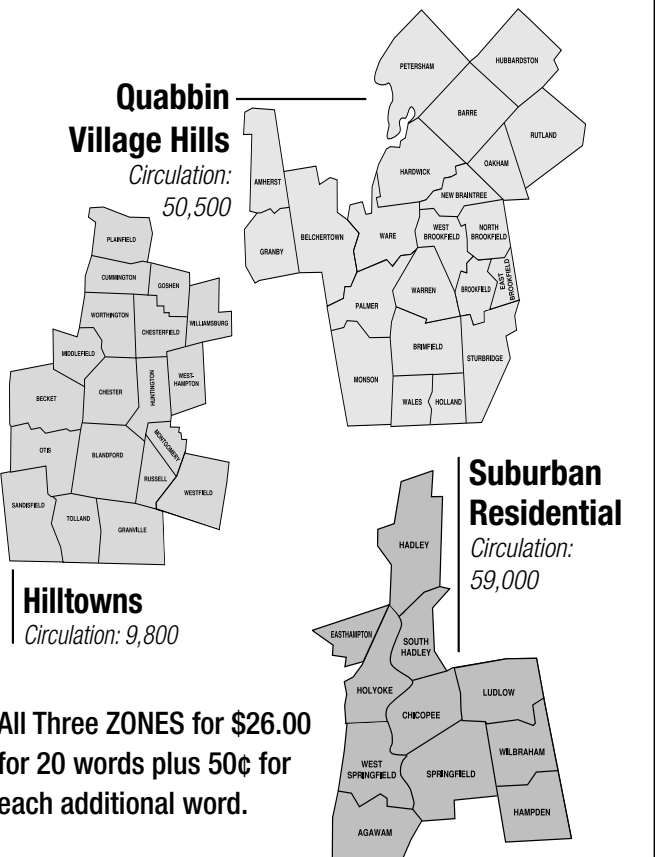
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SENIORS

Monthly Highlights for May at Hampden Senior Center

HAMPDEN - The following programs will occur at the senior center on Allen Street in the coming weeks.

**Do you have Parkinson’s Disease or know someone who does?**

**PWR! Moves Group Exercise Classes** with *Lisa Kern, OT, Reiki Master| Holistic Therapist*

A Parkinson-specific exercise class that “makes function exercise” to keep you moving and doing more of what you want to do! As you practice, you will be challenged physically and cognitively while working on fitness goals: strength, balance, agility, aerobics, and flexibility.

Exercises are designed to improve your fitness, counteract your PD symptoms, and increase your daily activity. This whole-body function-focused exercise class will push you to do more than you think you can in a fun, empowering, and enriched environment!

*New 8-week session beginning through June 30. (No class 5/26)*

Mondays from 9 to 10 a.m.  
Cost is \$65 pre-paid for the 8-week session or a drop-in rate of \$10.00 per class.

Please call 566-5588 to register.

**Common Threads Led by Joan Tompkins, PhD. All are welcome!**

Mondays from 11 a.m. to

Noon– Newcomers will meet at 12:30 pm.

We invite you to join us as we share many things such as: Loneliness vs Feeling Lonely Adapting to Life Changes – Finding purpose for our life as Seniors – Bereavement as well as Joyous Moments

There is no charge to join this group. Please call 566-5588 to reserve your seat.

**Ukulele with Amy – New Students Welcome!**

**New 8-week session beginning June 2 through July 28. (No class on 6/23.)**

**Mondays, 12:15 to 1:15 p.m. - Beginner Ukulele**  
**Mondays, 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. – Intermediate Ukulele**

Cost is \$50 pre-paid for the 8-week session or a drop-in rate of \$7 per class.

Please pay cash or make checks payable to: Town of Hampden

Please call 566-5588 to reserve your spot now.

**Choral Group**

Are you interested in singing in a choral group? Please let us know by calling 566-5588.

**Scrapbooking Class**

**New 6-week session through June 10**

**Tuesdays, from 10 a.m. to Noon**

Cost is \$60 pre-paid for the

6-week session or a drop-in rate of \$12 per class.

Please bring 7-8 photographs, scissors, a tape runner, and any stickers you wish to use. Paper will be provided. Please call 566-5588 to reserve your spot for each class you are interested in. Space is limited.

If you have any seashells you would like to donate for the June craft class, please drop them off at the senior center.

**Living Stronger... Longer... with Lamar Moore – New Students Welcome!**

**12-week session through July 8. (No class 5/13.)**

**Tuesdays, 2:15 to 3 p.m.**

Learn about balance and how it impacts overall health and wellness. Get tips on strength training and cardiovascular endurance to increase mobility and flexibility.

Cost is \$6 per class for drop-ins.. Please call 566-5588 to reserve your spot.

**“African Drumming” with Jason” – New Students Welcome!**

**14-week session through July 25. (No classes on 5/2 and 7/4.)**

**Fridays, 2:15 to 3:15 p.m.**

Cost is \$7 per class for drop-ins. Please call 566-5588 to reserve your spot.

**“Come What May” Boutique... is open in our lobby for all to shop during normal**

business hours,

Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

We accept donations of new or gently used clothing, outerwear, accessories, and footwear.

All proceeds from Boutique sales will benefit the needs of The Senior Center.

**HELP US STOCK OUR SHELVES with Sunscreen!**

Thank you to those who donated toothpaste last month. Every month, we will target a different item to help fill our shelves to provide non-food items to SNAP recipients.

Did you know we offer the following services....

Anyone is welcome to take advantage of these services.

Please call 566-5588 unless otherwise noted to schedule your appointments.

**Chair Massage with Mindy**

Tuesdays, May 27. \$10 for 10 minutes.

**Foot Care with Deborah**

1st Thursday of the month. NO FOOTCARE IN MAY, will return June 5

\$40 for a 30-minute appointment

**Manicures with Cat**

Please call Cat directly at 413-335-7422 for an appointment and pricing.

Hampden Senior Center Older Americans Month

Programming offered

HAMPDEN – The senior center will be offering programming throughout May in celebration of Older Americans Month.

The 2025 Older Americans Month theme is Flip the Script on Aging, which focuses on transforming how society perceives, talks about, and approaches aging. It encourages individuals and communities to challenge stereotypes and dispel misconceptions. This year, join us in honoring older adults’ contributions, exploring the many opportunities for staying active and engaged as we age, and highlighting the opportunities for purpose, exploration, and connection that come with aging.

Please call 413.566.5588 to register for any of the events listed below.

Wed., May 28 at 9:30 a.m. Donuts with Jason Burgener, Hampden Veteran Services Officer

Stop in for a FREE Donut Dip donut and meet

Hampden VSO Jason Burgener. You do not have to be a Veteran to attend this event.

Wear Red, White, and Blue for an extra ticket in the raffle basket.

Fri., May 30 at 12:30 p.m. Drumming Concert

**Lunch/Concert**

The Hampden Senior Center Drumming group invites you to come and

American Chop Suey hear what they’ve learned in their Friday afternoon classes. Refreshments sponsored by MercyLIFE.

All events are FREE unless otherwise noted.

Lunch is a \$3 suggested donation to Greater Springfield Senior Services, Inc. (GSSSI)

Please call 413.566.5588 to pre-register for all programs. Space is limited.

Attend any of the above programs, and your name will be entered into a raffle prize drawing.

The winner will be chosen at the end of May.

The more events you attend, the more chances you have to win.

PUBLIC NOTICES

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
The Trial Court  
Hampden Probate and Family Court  
50 State Street  
Springfield, MA 01103  
Docket No.  
HD21P2070PM  
In the matter of:  
Josephine Carabello of Wilbraham, MA  
Protected Person/  
Disabled Person/Respondent  
CITATION GIVING  
NOTICE OF  
CONSERVATOR’S  
ACCOUNT**

To the named Respondent and all other interested persons, you are hereby notified pursuant to Rule 72 of the Supplemental Rules of the Probate & Family Court, that the **Second** account(s) of Alison Bartlett-O’Donald of Holyoke, MA as Conservator of the property of said Respondent has or have been presented to the Court for allowance.

**You have the right to object to the account(s).** If you wish to do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this court on or before 10:00 A.M. on the return date of **06/09/2025**. This day is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline date by which you have to object to the account(s). If you fail to file the written appearance and objection by the return date, action may be taken in this matter without further notice to you, including the allowance of the account(s).

Additionally, within thirty days after said return day (or within such other time as the Court upon motion may order), you must file a written affidavit of objections stating the specific facts and grounds upon which each objection is based and a copy shall be served upon the Conservator pursuant to Rule 3 of the Supplemental Rules of the Probate & Family Court.

You have the right to send to the Conservator, by registered or

certified mail, a written request to receive a copy of the Petition and account(s) at no cost to you.

**IMPORTANT NOTICE**

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

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

Date: May 05, 2025

**Rosemary A. Saccomani**  
Register of Probate

05/22/2025

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
The Trial Court  
Probate and Family Court  
Hampden Probate and Family Court  
50 State Street  
Springfield, MA 01103  
(413)748-7758  
Docket No.  
HD25P1029EA  
Estate of:  
Omar Faruk  
Date of Death: 12/24/2024  
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 **Nazneen Sultana of Gaithersburg, MD** requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

The Petitioner requests that: **Nazneen Sultana of Gaithersburg, MD** be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond in **unsupervised ad-**

ministration.

**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 **06/24/2025**. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

**UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)**

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

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

Date: May 13, 2025

**Rosemary A Saccomani**  
Register of Probate

05/22/2025

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
The Trial Court  
Probate and Family Court  
Hampden Probate and Family Court  
50 State Street  
Springfield, MA 01103  
(413)748-7758**

**Docket No.  
HD24P0172EA  
Estate of:  
William Johnson, Sr.  
Also known as:  
William G. Johnson, Sr.  
Date of Death: 12/31/2023  
CITATION ON  
PETITION FOR  
ORDER OF COMPLETE  
SETTLEMENT**

A Petition for **Order of Complete Settlement** has been filed by **Yvette J Belisle of Belchertown, MA** requesting that the court enter a formal Decree of Complete Settlement including the allowance of a final account, a determination of testacy and heirs at law and other such relief as may be requested in the Petition.

**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 **06/17/2025**.

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.

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

Date: May 15, 2025

**Rosemary A. Saccomani**  
Register of Probate

05/22/2025

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

**Springfield, MA 01103  
(413)748-7758  
Docket No.  
HD25P1012EA  
Estate of:  
Richard P Martial  
Date of Death: 05/16/2021  
CITATION ON PETITION  
FOR FORMAL  
ADJUDICATION**

To all interested persons:

A Petition for **Late and Limited Formal Testacy and/or Appointment** has been filed by **David R Martial of Wilbraham, MA** requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

The Petitioner requests that: **David R Martial of Wilbraham, MA** be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond in **unsupervised administration**.

**IMPORTANT NOTICE**

You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on the return day of **06/09/2025**. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

**UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)**

A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled

to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.

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

Date: May 12, 2025

**Rosemary A Saccomani**  
Register of Probate

05/22/2025

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
The Trial Court  
Probate and Family Court  
Hampden Probate and Family Court  
50 State Street  
Springfield, MA 01103  
(413)748-7758  
Docket No.  
HD25C0140CA  
In the matter of:  
Julie K Grondin  
CITATION ON PETITION  
TO CHANGE NAME**

A Petition to **Change Name of Adult** has been filed by **Julie K Grondin of Wilbraham, MA** requesting that the court enter a Decree changing their name to:

**Julie K Curcio**

**IMPORTANT NOTICE**

Any person may appear for purposes of objecting to the petition by filing an appearance at: **Hampden Probate and Family Court before 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 06/13/2025**.

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

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

Date: May 16, 2025

**Rosemary A Saccomani**  
Register of Probate

05/22/2025

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 and may include a photograph. **Death Notices & Paid Obituaries** should be submitted through a funeral home to: [obits@turley.com](mailto:obits@turley.com).

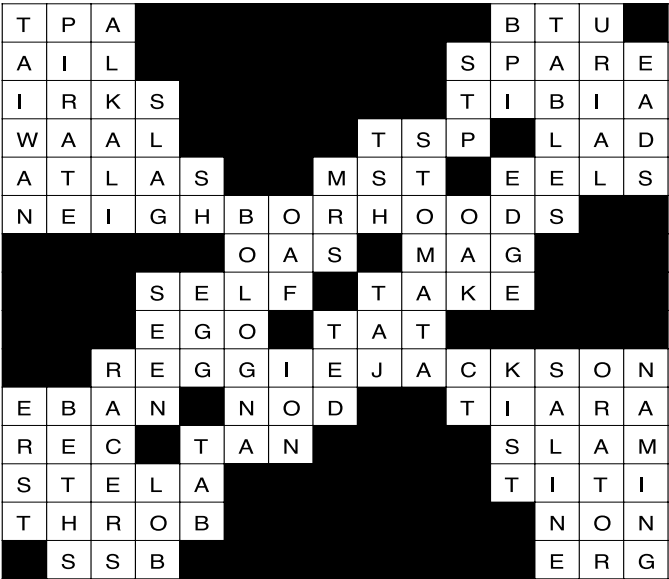
*Exceptions will be made only when the family provides a death certificate and must be pre-paid.*

PUBLIC NOTICES ARE NOW ONLINE

- 1 Email all notices to [notices@turley.com](mailto: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](http://www.publicnotices.turley.com)**







# MEMORIAL DAY

## Hampden Memorial Day Parade and Ceremony scheduled for May 26th

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

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

This year's parade will feature:

- Local veterans
- Civic leaders
- Scout groups
- Youth sports teams
- Community organizations
- Musical performances by Minnechaug Regional High School's Marching Band and Choir
- Vintage military vehicles and patriotic displays

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

• Rain Plan:


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

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

## Memorial Day Plant Sale

HAMPDEN - The Hampden Garden Club's Memorial Day Plant Sale will be taking place on May 26 from 8 a.m. to Noon at Academy Hall, Main Street, in Hampden, rain or shine.

Stop by and check out the plants!



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## Wilbraham Lions Club hosting food drive

WILBRAHAM - The Wilbraham Lions Club, in conjunction with Big Y, is collecting non-perishable foods at the Wilbraham Big Y on Saturday, May 31 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Donations will benefit the Community Survival Center.

Donation suggestions are grain and multigrain cereal, canned vegetables, 100% fruit juice, canned proteins, canned fruit, peanut butter and soups.

Thank you for your support!

## State Rep. Angelo J. Puppolo Jr. files bill easing the burden of ADUs

SPRINGFIELD - House Docket 1577, An Act relative to municipal housing requirements, authorizes municipalities and towns with over 100z affordable or subsidized housing to implement additional owner-occupancy and parking regulations when reviewing Accessory Dwelling Unit (ADU) applications.

Some municipalities are already well-suited for single-family housing, with limited space for additional ADUs. To seek an equitable approach to this matter, State Representative Angelo J. Puppolo, Jr., (D-Springfield), has partnered with Springfield community stakeholders to create legislation ensuring fair treatment for municipalities with existing comprehensive housing plans and those without.

"This language and clarification are needed especially in cities like Springfield to further protect the residents and quality of life in our neighborhoods" Stated State Representative Angelo J. Puppolo, Jr.

This legislation protects municipalities that have proactively addressed zoning and affordable housing challenges from adverse consequences resulting from the ADU mandate within single-family zoning districts. This act safeguards municipalities that have preemptively mitigated zoning and affordable housing issues from negative repercussions stemming from the ADU mandate in single-family zones. The ability to mandate owner occupancy in ADUs and require additional parking for specific requests enables municipalities to selectively approve reasonable ADU construction proposals within single-family zoning districts. Concerns from residents regarding potential population increases in municipalities like Springfield, due to the act's allowance of ADUs in single-family zones, considering existing population density in certain areas, have been acknowledged. Resident concerns regarding potential overpopulation in municipalities such as Springfield, due to the new legislation permitting ADUs in single-family zones, given existing population density in some areas, have been noted.

For additional information, please contact Representative Puppolo at (413-596-4333) directly.

## Hampden Transfer Station sticker sales price increase

HAMPDEN - The Hampden Selectmen voted on April 28, 2025 to increase the price of the Transfer Station permits.

The increase will start May 23, 2025.

For Seniors over 65 the price will be \$40 for the first permit and \$20 for any additional permits for those residents meeting those criteria.

The Transfer Station is located at Cross Road.

**Hampden Board of Health and Selectmen**

## Civics Action Project

WILBRAHAM - Tegan Haluch, an eighth grader at Wilbraham Middle School, is working on a civics action project called "Dangers to Be Aware of on Your Property."

Do you know what kind of hazards might be on your property? Your backyard could cause injuries such as sprains, breaks and even death. You could trip in a broken sidewalk or even have a dead tree fall on your house during a storm.

Here are some ways that you could help prevent injury:

- Regularly check your trees for decay. Check for dead limbs or branches, brown-ing, dust or powder. If you see signs of decay, call a licensed professional to take a look.
- Check your sidewalks and walkways for cracks that someone could trip on. Get cracks fixed and repaired.
- Look for holes in your lawn that you could fall in. If you find any holes, fill them in!
- Put all chemicals in proper holding containers and store in a safe place that little children and pets can't get to.

*Created by Tegan Haluch*  
*You can contact me at thaluch2011@gmail.com.*

## Hampden Community Garden accepting plot reservations

HAMPDEN - Hampden Community Garden is now accepting plot reservations for 2025.

The 20'x20' plots are tilled, staked, and ready for your flower and vegetable seeds and plants. For the \$20 fee, gardeners will enjoy having water and hoses on site, ample parking and easy access.

The garden is located beyond the parking lot at Green Meadows School on North Road. To secure your plot, contact Clark Kadis at ckadis13@gmail.com.

Gardening is a family and friends activity with tasty and money saving rewards. Join us!

## Unico Celebrity Bartending event

WILBRAHAM - Unico of East Longmeadow and Wilbraham will be holding an Unico National Celebrity Bartending Charity Fund-raising event at Pafumi's on Main on June 4.

The event will take place from 4:30 to 8:30 p.m.

Stop by and have some fun!



### MEMORIAL DAY

REMEMBER AND HONOR

**To the Brave Men & Women who gave their lives protecting our freedom: We are forever in your debt. Thank you. We proudly remember you.**

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### we will REMEMBER

★

**Memorial Day May 26, 2025**

**Happy Memorial Day to those who served, fought and sacrificed for our country.**



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**Sending warm wishes to you on this Memorial Day.**

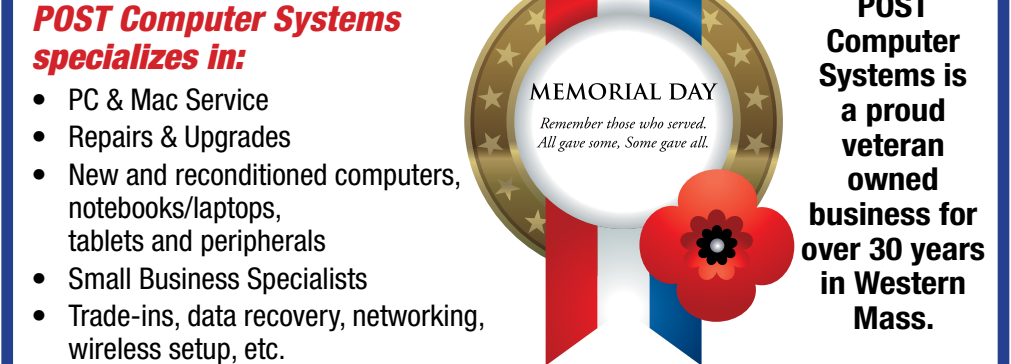
**Let us honor and salute the heroes who have gifted us our freedom.**



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**VIRUSES AND WORMS AND TROJANS, OH MY!**