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# MEMORIAL DAY

## Remembrances



The V.F.W. Post 9397 was one of many local organizations taking part in the Memorial Day Parade in Hampden on Memorial Day. Quartermaster Jered Sasen was the speaker for the Memorial Day observance ceremony. (Staff photos by Kristin Rivers)

### Hampden commemorates Memorial Day with parade and observance ceremony

By Kristin Rivers  
Staff Writer  
krivers@turley.com

HAMPDEN - Residents marked Memorial Day on May 29 with a parade on Main Street and an observance ceremony at the Veterans Memorial at Town Center.



Hampden Board of Selectmen Chair John Flynn provides opening remarks during the Memorial Day observance ceremony.

The parade kicked off at 10 a.m. at St. Mary's Parish.

During the parade, members of the fire and police departments, V.F.W. Post 9397, veterans, the Minnechaug Regional High School Community Club and Band, Girl Scout Troops 40160 and 65374, Next Stop Dance Studio and many more waved to spectators and tossed candy and beads.

Tom Cardano enjoyed attending the parade with his daughter, Victoria.

"It's great! It brings people out onto Main Street. Everybody's sitting around, everybody's very friendly. I had a bunch of conversations with a lot of great people," Cardano said.

He emphasized the opportunity and respect in his reflections on the holiday, hoping to teach those lessons to his daughter.

"Some people lost a lot to give us those opportunities," Cardano said. "Some people lost a lot and you have to respect that. People gave everything for us."

At 11 a.m., residents gathered at Veterans Memorial at Town Center for the observance ceremony, led by Board of Selectmen Chair John Flynn and V.F.W. 9397 Quartermaster Jered Sasen.

"I'd like to thank everyone for com-

Please see **HAMPDEN**, page 9



(L to R) U.S. Army Veteran Chuck Higgins and Director of Veterans Services Jered Sasen hold the Memorial Day Wreath for the Laying of the Wreath presentation during the Memorial Day ceremony at Crane Veteran Memorial Park. This year's wreath was donated by the Wilbraham Garden Club. (Staff photos by Kristin Rivers)

### Wilbraham marks Memorial Day with ceremony at Crane Veteran Memorial Park

By Kristin Rivers  
Staff Writer  
krivers@turley.com

WILBRAHAM - Residents gathered at Crane Veteran Memorial Park on May 28 for a ceremony to commemorate Memorial Day.

Director of Veterans Services Jered Sasen encouraged everyone to remember the fallen, reflecting on the day's history and the power of courage, sacrifice and unity.

"Let us recommit ourselves to keeping the memory of our fallen alive. Let us ensure the youth understand at an early age their freedom was paid forward at a great expense. Let us work to educate others on the true meaning of Memorial Day and let us vow to stand up for those who are unable to stand up for themselves," Sasen said.

During the ceremony, Boy Scout Troop 359 member Gabriel Wallace led the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by the Minnechaug Regional High School Choir singing the National Anthem.

The high school's band performed "God Bless America" and "Taps."

Additionally, Sasen and U.S. Army Veteran Chuck Higgins led the laying of the Memorial Day Wreath, donated by the Wilbraham Garden Club and presented by President Pat Serra.

State Rep. Angelo Puppolo, Jr. (D-Springfield) asked residents "to consider what the world would be like if not for the service of the men and women in uniform."

"We owe a great debt of gratitude to all the American patriots who put country before self and sacrificed their lives so that we could continue to live free in a greater and safer nation," Puppolo said.

Puppolo is proud of the state's support of veterans, service members and their families through programs, resources and benefits, vowing to continue speaking up for them.

"It is our contribution to those who have contributed so much to all of us and as we serve them in this small way, we do so in memory of those who have given their lives in service," Puppolo said.

Board of Selectmen Vice Chairman Sue Bunnell reflected on public service, saying attending the event "demonstrates that care and concern exists in all of us"

Please see **WILBRAHAM**, page 5

## Scantic River Artisans award art scholarship to Minnechaug senior

Award supports a local art student

By Kristin Rivers  
Staff Writer  
krivers@turley.com

HAMPDEN - The Scantic River Artisans awarded a scholarship to a graduating Minnechaug Regional High School senior during the high school's Scholarship Presentation on May 17.

The scholarship, called The Scantic River Artisan Award, was presented by Laura Salerno, a local

artist and potter, Treasurer Deb Penna and Secretary Sandy Howell to Sidney Liquori.

Liquori also received another art award: the Art Award from the high school's Senior Fine Arts Department.

The Scantic River Artisans is an art association started over 20 years ago to support local artists and artisans. The association was reorganized in 2014 by extending membership to surrounding towns, including Wilbraham, leading to more opportunities for artists and artisans to showcase their work.

Over the years, the association

has held previous exhibitions at The First Church Gallery in Springfield, Wilbraham Public Library, the Little Red School House in East Longmeadow, the Town House, the

Please see **SCHOLARSHIP**, page 14

(L to R) Artist Laura Salerno, Scantic River Artisans Treasurer Deb Penna, Minnechaug Regional High School senior Sydney Liquori and Scantic River Artisans Secretary Sandy Howell at the Minnechaug Evening of Recognition Scholarship Presentation.

Staff photos by Kristin Rivers



## Administrators share improvement plans with School Committee

By Kristin Rivers  
Staff Writer  
krivers@turley.com

WILBRAHAM - The School Committee received updates on school improvement plans on May 18 for the elementary, middle and high schools.

The meeting took place at Green Meadows Elementary School.

During the meeting, elementary, middle and high school administrators discussed curriculum and academics, social-emotional learning and safety or re-unification plans.

Wilbraham Middle School Principal John Derosia highlighted the eighth-grade students working on civics projects focused on service dogs, solar panels for the school's roof and supporting single parents.

Vice Chair Maura Ryan said she "would love to participate more" as students reached out to her for their projects.

She asked Derosia about communication between students and community members.

"I wonder if there might be some consideration made to communicating out to the community," Ryan said. "Even if it's at the beginning of the school year that the eighth-graders are going to participate in a project they'll reach out to whether it's community members, School Committee members, educators, just so they have an idea."

Derosia agreed with Ryan's suggestion.

"I think it's a great point and I can certainly try and communicate that better. I think where the limitations exist for them is their emails don't send a receipt to outside the district," Derosia said.

Sherrill Caruana asked Derosia what the school was doing for English Language Arts, citing his positive update on the IM math curriculum for sixth-grade students.

Derosia explained they're looking into similar programs the elementary schools have.

"I think if it was successful for the other schools, then we need to look at how it fits into our school, but the more aligned we are, the better our kids are," Derosia said. "I agree," Caruana said.

For Minnechaug Regional High School, Associate Principal Nicole Smith highlighted several successes, including launching the co-teaching program providing students with two teachers.

The pilot program had co-teachers for one section of a math class and four in English.

Smith hopes to expand the program, providing more opportunities for students and teachers to connect.

"I'm excited to move forward next year with an expansion of that and so that includes two math, six English sections and one biology to see how that can move forward," Smith said.

For the elementary schools, Mile Tree Elementary School Principal Allison Petit emphasized social-emotional learning, breaking down action steps

through data, identifying student needs and providing resources for teachers and students.

Petit added the school improvement plans "have faced hurdles these past few years" due to COVID, stressing the importance of SEL.

"As we know, to be successful academically, you have to be able to access the curriculum mentally and emotionally, so we consider this very, very important and we're very proud of the work our elementary schools have done," Petit said.

For safety, Minnechaug Regional High School Principal Steve Hale praised Superintendent Dr. John Provost for helping negotiate a new relocation spot for the high school and district.

However, planning around swatting calls has been difficult, especially when students and classes are outside.

"When the swatting calls were happening, the threat was outside your building," Hale said. "So how do we plan for that, what are our protocols if we were to get a swatting call at that moment, so we developed some good plans, good procedures around that."

The safety audit was also discussed, but those comments are being unreported.

Patrick Kiernan presented an explanation at the meeting's end.

"Just a reminder on that safety audit that that's done in executive session, and there were comments made tonight that really should be kept to the executive session because it spoke to results of the safety audit," Kiernan said.

## Graduation ceremony photos request

In next week's center photo spread, we at the Times would be thrilled to run photos of students and families taken during and after Minnechaug Regional High School's graduation ceremony. Please feel free to email any photos to dzbierski@turley.com. Thank you, and congrats graduates!

## Wilbraham United Church to hold Arts and Crafts Fair June 3

WILBRAHAM - The Wilbraham United Church will hold an Arts and Crafts Fair on their front lawn on Saturday, June 3 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Over 30 unique crafts vendors will be present along with a bake sale and café. There will also be an opportunity to win vendor donated prizes as well as other bespoke baskets filled with themed items. The church is located at 500 Main St. There is parking in both the rear of the church as well as on Main Street during the event.

## Auditions upcoming for 'One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest'

HAMPDEN - The Theater Guild of Hampden will be holding auditions in the coming days for its upcoming production of "One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest" in the Melville Room of Hampden Town Hall, located at 625 Main St.

Audition dates are Sunday, June 4 from 12 p.m. to 2 p.m. and Monday, June 5 from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.

The production will be directed by Rick Rubin.

Show dates are Friday, Nov. 3 and Saturday, Nov. 4 at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday, Nov. 5 at 2 p.m.

Shows will continue the following weekend on Friday, Nov. 10 and Saturday, Nov. 11 at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday, Nov. 12 at 2 p.m.

Show location is Hampden Town Hall.



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# Gardens of Wilbraham host fire department for Safety Meeting



WILBRAHAM – The Gardens of Wilbraham hosted the Wilbraham Fire Department for a general Safety Meeting, on Thursday May 18. Patrick R. Farrow, Firefighter/Paramedic Fire and Life Safety Educator and Mathew Walch, Captain – Fire Prevention Officer, presented a host of safety topics. Also present was Barbara Harrington of the Wilbraham Senior Center, who discussed Knox Boxes and how to sign up for these devices.

The meeting was well attended by more than 40 Garden residents. The presentation was well received and praised by the attendees for the quality and quantity of information. The topics covered were alarm systems, 911 emergency calling, home evacuation, pet safety, fire extinguisher use, and other safe awareness issues. The audience included Garden resident Dick Chase, retired Wilbraham fire fighter, who commented on the increased number of Fire emergency responses involving fire protection or prevention, rescue, emergency medical or hazardous material response services.

Chase said, “The current emergency staff responds to almost four times as many calls as we did when I retired some thirteen years ago.”

The increase is partially due to the rising population in Wilbraham which is estimated to be more than 1,100 (15%) over the past 20 years.

Text and photos are courtesy of Rich Moore, Wilbraham.

## Saint Cecilia Women’s Club awards scholarships to graduating seniors

WILBRAHAM – The Saint Cecilia Women’s Club awarded three scholarships to graduating seniors who are members of Saint Cecilia Parish. Pictures left to right are club president Jackie Pahl, Nikolas Supczak, son of Michael & Patricia Supczak, who will attend UConn, Norah Doyle, daughter of Kathleen & Christopher Doyle, who will attend Endicott College, and scholarship chairman Linda Hitas. Not pictured but also receiving a scholarship is Gwendolyn Dugan, daughter of Lori & Jim Dugan, who will be going to the Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts.

(Photo courtesy of Sue Agnew)



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# Minnechaug Land Trust Annual Meeting

Monday, June 12, 2023, La Cucina Di Hampden House, 6 p.m.

HAMPDEN – The Minnechaug Land Trust is holding its 2023 Annual Meeting on Monday, June 12 and invites anyone interested in land conservation to attend. The evening begins with an informal get together at 6 p.m. and the annual meeting begins at 6:30 p.m. This is an opportunity to celebrate another year of land conservation within the towns of Hampden and Wilbraham. We have been so encouraged by the continual trail usage our properties have seen in the past couple of years, especially during COVID. Unfortunately, in contrast, we have seen a significant drop in our membership numbers. To address this issue, we have been working hard to reconfigure our website and outreach objectives to encourage more people within the towns of Wilbraham and Hampden to join us in keeping the Land Trust alive.

In Wilbraham, we are close to purchasing the land at the rear portion of the Cedar Ridge development on Stony Hill Road. These 60 acres border the Cedar Swamp and will allow us to expand the McDonald Nature Preserve. We were thrilled to receive a state LAND grant last fall which will help defray the cost of the purchase. And on June 3, the Eleventh Annual Run for Rice's will be held. This fun family run helps to maintain the trails and fields of the popular Rice Nature Preserve and helped fund the recent bog bridge installation at the beginning of the trail.

The town of Hampden recently voted to set aside Community Preservation funds for the purchase of a 13-acre parcel on Walnut Road with river frontage adjacent to Minnechaug Mountain conservation land. In the coming years we plan to create multiuse trails that access the river and connect to the existing trail system on Minnechaug. We have also been focusing efforts on maintenance of our existing properties including working with the town of Hampden to regrade the entrance of Mt. Vision and clearing invasive species at the entrance of Minnechaug Mountain. Several volunteer maintenance days have been held to clear existing trails, update kiosks, and build bog bridges over wet trails.

Our volunteer Board members are passionate about the open areas of critical habitat that we conserve and maintain for the public to hike, walk, and view local species of plants and animals. If you are interested in becoming a member, you can join at our Annual Meeting or send your membership fee to the Minnechaug Land Trust, P.O. Box 455 Hampden MA 01036. The basic membership is only \$15 but larger donations are appreciated. Your contribution helps maintain properties like Rice Nature Preserve, Goat Rock, Mt. Marcy, McDonald's, Gleason's and Minnechaug Mountain for the enjoyment of all.

# 'A famous Wilbraham tragedy' to be remembered

WILBRAHAM – One of America's earliest folksongs "The Pesky Sarpent/On Springfield Mountain" will be sung by Hampden singer/songwriter Peter Lehndorff in the Wilbraham & Monson Academy Chapel as part of Old Meeting House Museum's Open House on Sunday, June 4 at 2 p.m. The event is free and open to the public.

The folksong dramatizes a famous tragedy in the history of Wilbraham about an incident that happened Aug. 7, 1761 that town history books said, "brought sorrow to the town, tears to an intended bride, re-enacted on the stage, immortalized in song and still is the subject of controversy."

The one-person calamity unfolded when Timothy Merrick, son of Lt. Thomas Merrick and his wife Mary, was scheduled to be married to the "Village Sweetheart" Sarah Lamb in two weeks hence. He was cutting hay with a scythe in the south of town when he was bit by a rattlesnake on what is now known as "Rattlesnake Peak" and died.

The song, which has many different versions, grew in popularity and has been sung by iconic folk artists like Woody Guthrie, who said he learned the song because his mother sang it to him as a child. Burl Ives, Harry Belafonte, Tara Maclean and Tennessee Earnie Ford have also recorded it. It is included in the book "Folk Songs of North America" by Alan Lomax.

Lehndorff has appeared at coffee



Hampden singer/songwriter Peter Lehndorff, with fiddler Sue Hill, will perform one of America's oldest folk songs "The Pesky Sarpent/On Springfield Mountain" at Old Meeting House Open House Sunday, June 4 at 2 p.m. (Submitted photo)

houses and venues throughout New England. He calls his performances "Stand-Up Folk" as a combination of folk music and stand-up comedy. He was a winner of the 2020 Connecticut Folk Festival Songwriting competition. Lehndorff has performed at Berklee Performance Center as one of the finalists in the Boston Acoustic Underground competition. And several of his car-related tunes were on the National Public Radio show "CarTalk".

The guest merchant for the Open House will be Minnechaug graduate Nicki Smith, who operates crafting company "One White Whisker" named after her cat. Smith sells fabric flowers as gifts. She started the business during the Covid Pandemic.

For more information about the Old Meeting House Museum Open House email president@wilbrahamatheneum.org.

# Old Post Road Orchestra to perform on June 16, 18

SPRINGFIELD – The Old Post Road Orchestra will be holding its final concerts of the season titled "Tales As Olde As Time". Conductor Alexandria Black will delight audiences with selections from well-loved Disney movies, classic Looney Tunes and Studio Ghibli. Rounding out the program will be tried and true patriotic favorites. Concerts will be held on FRIDAY, JUNE 16, 7:30 p.m., Memorial Hall, 198 Main St., MONSON and on SUNDAY, JUNE 18, 3 p.m., Loomis Lakeside at Reed's Landing, 807 Wilbraham Road, SPRINGFIELD.

Funding for the Monson concert provided in part by a grant from the Town of Monson Regional Economic Development Organization and a grant from the Monson Cultural Council, a local agency, which is supported by the Mass Cultural Council, a state agency.

Celebrate the Dads in your life and join OPRO for an entertaining musical experience.

# Wilbraham Girl Scout Troop welcomes new girls

WILBRAHAM – Girls entering Grades 4-12 this fall are invited to join Girl Scout Troop 11714.

The troop meets on Mondays starting this fall from 6-8 p.m. in Wilbraham.

Register now to claim her spot as troops fill fast. Girl extended year membership is active until September 30, 2024. The cost is \$55 and financial assistance is available.

Girls who register for Extended Year have the opportunity to earn two free badges during the summer. The Outdoor Art Badge and the Outdoor ECO badge at a free Badge-in-a-day event at Girl Scout Camp.

See for yourself what Girl Scouts have to offer. Girl Scouts is the premier organization for girls to learn about leadership, financial literacy, life skills, science, and technology,

the outdoors, and community service. Previous Girl Scout experience is not necessary.

You can register Extended Year for a spot in the troop at <https://bit.ly/troop11714>

Questions? Email [info@gscwm.org](mailto:info@gscwm.org) or call 413-584-2602.

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Boy Scout Troop 359 member Gabriel Wallace leads his troop, the Minnechaug Regional High School Band and Director of Veterans Services Jered Sasen in the Pledge of Allegiance during the Memorial Day ceremony at Crane Veteran Memorial Park. (Staff photos by Kristin Rivers)



(L to R) Director of Veterans Services Jered Sasen receives the Memorial Day Wreath from Wilbraham Garden Club President Pat Serra.



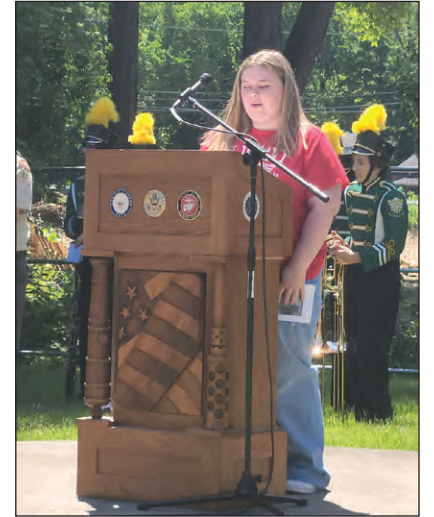
Wilbraham Board of Selectmen Vice Chairman Sue Bunnell gives remarks on public service.



State Rep. Angelo Puppolo, Jr. (D-Springfield) provides remarks on the state's support for veterans, service members and their families.



The Minnechaug Regional High School Band performs "God Bless America" during the Memorial Day ceremony at Crane Veteran Memorial Park.



Dakota Joseph, junior at Minnechaug Regional High School, reads her essay responding to the question "Why is the Veteran Important?."

**WILBRAHAM** from page 1

and honors the fallen and their families.

She shared a pin honoring men and women in public service from the Massachusetts Insurance Association, adding public service is "the way I have done what I can to honor the sacrifices that have been made in the interest of democracy."

"I would also call on us all to talk to each other about what it is we value as Americans, as residents of this community. Find out where our shared commit-

ments are and take the actions we can to help ensure those things come to our fruition," Bunnell said.

Dakota Joseph, a junior at Minnechaug, is the daughter of a Hampden combat veteran. She organized and leads the Minnechaug Community Club, a club supporting military members and their families.

Joseph received the 2023 Voice of Democracy Scholarship from the Hampden VFW for her essay answering the question, "Why is the Veteran Important?"

She was honored to read her essay at the ceremony and assisted Sasen in the Prisoner of War/Missing in Action table presentation.

"It was a great opportunity. I thank Jered constantly for all the help and support he's given me and the club I started," Joseph said.

Sasen explained the ceremony is also dedicated to Korean War Veteran David Miles, the town's 2021 Veteran of the Year and Wilbraham-Hampden Times photographer, who passed away on Nov.

14, 2022.

"He was really one of those very special citizens," Sasen said. "He was a proud veteran and he was such an important component of this community. It's very important that we take that time to dedicate him and remember him."

Joseph wants the community to remember the sacrifices made to preserve freedom.

"Everyone gave a little bit, some gave all," Joseph said.

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## VIEWPOINTS



By Ellenor Downer

The ovenbird gets its name from the type of nest it builds, which looks like a Dutch oven.

They place the nest on the ground and it has a domed roof over the nest of grasses and rootlets. The entrance is a small slit.

The female lays three to six white eggs with brown and gray marks. They inhabit mature deciduous or mixed forests. They eat insects, worms and spiders. They walk on the ground and fallen branches and poke under leaves looking for food.

An Oakham resident has ovenbirds in her yard. She hears them making a sharp “chip” call.

The ovenbird is six inches long and has an olive-brown back. Its breast and belly with white with heavy dark stripes. The ovenbird crown is orange bordered by two dark brown stripes.

### Barred owl

An Oakham resident saw a barred owl in her yard on April 28. She said in an email, “I had a surprise visitor this evening, a beautiful

barred owl sat on my deck railing for quite a while. He looked all around before flying up to a maple tree. He sat in the tree for several minutes before going into the woods at the edge of my yard. I finally saw what he was after. He was tracking a squirrel.” The owl and squirrel went tree to tree.

### Other birds

The same resident sent me an email on May 3 to say she got her first hummingbird on May 2. A friend in Barre told her that her neighbors already had hummingbirds so the Oakham resident put out feeders.

She was glad she already had her feeder up when the first hummingbird appeared.

She said, “For the first time in 31 years of living here, I got my first bluebirds. I bought mealworms and set up my first tray feeder ever. I cannot get over all the birds who have gone to the tray feeder who have been ground eaters, morning doves, juncos and even a robin.

### Leucistic rose breasted grosbeak

A Palmer resident sent a photo of a Leucistic rose breasted grosbeak at her feeder. The grosbeak, a male had a lot of white feathers, but it did have the rose colored splash on its breast. This phenomenon causes the partial loss of all types of pigmentation and causes white coloration, white patches, spots or splotches.

### Baltimore orioles

An Oakham couple had Baltimore orioles at their suet feeder this week. They were going to get some oranges to put out for the orioles as well. I put out an orange this week.

The next morning I found one half of the orange on the ground and another on a rock about ten feet from the holder where I put the orange halves. I think it was the work of a grey squirrel or squirrels as I have lots of them.

### Wood stork

I received a note in the mail from a Palmer resident, who saw a wood stork. She wrote, “Two mornings in a row, I saw a wood stork fly and land in some bushes on the cove at Lake Thompson in Palmer. Imagine my surprise – white bird with black wing tips – wood stork is from Florida.” She said she opened her “Journal” to she who the bird person was and there was a picture of a heron and my address.

### Other birds

The Oakham resident, who has the oven birds, saw two hooded mergansers on Long Pond a few weeks ago.

Originally, I planned to put out my hummingbird feeder the weekend of April 29 and 30, but it was so cold I decided to wait. Instead, I put the feeder out this past Saturday and I spotted hummingbirds on Sunday.

This Monday I saw a catbird. I also have not seen any dark-eyed juncos lately. I think they have all headed north to their nesting grounds.

People may report a bird sighting or bird related experience by calling me at 413-967-3505, leaving a message at extension 100, emailing mybackyard88@aol.com or edowner@turley.com or mailing to Barre Gazette, P.O. Box 448, Barre, MA 01005.

## Lots of blue options for the spring border

I got so excited the other day.

I was walking around my backyard and came upon a flower I had never seen before. Where did it come from and what is it?

After a little bit of research, I found out that it is named Blue-eye Grass or Sisyrinchium. It is very diminutive, looking like a miniature purple-blue iris, with sword-like leaves and all.

Its size would make it perfect for a rock garden or alpine plant garden.

I promptly moved it out of the way of the weed whacker to join some other blue flowers that are in bloom in one of my gardens, taking their place in the front of the border. During late spring, blue flowers abound.

In fact, you could easily design a monochromatic scheme using just cool tones for a late spring symphony!

Here are some of my favorites: For the back of the border, try Amsonia tabernaemontana. This native plant is topped with clusters of pale blue flowers, each one opening to form a tiny star, hence its common name, blue star.

Growing to around three feet tall and not quite as wide, Amsonia almost qualifies for “specimen” status, although it is not as showy as other specimens like Peony or Dictamnus.

Only one plant is necessary per grouping in full sun or part shade. In my garden it self sows, but not so much to make itself a nuisance.

Sadly, the plant blooms for only a short while but makes a nice statement when it does. Make sure you choose your forever location wisely.

I need to move mine and with a crown two feet by two feet, it won't be easy.

Another plant best suited for the back row of the perennial garden is Baptisia australis, or false indigo.

Gray-green foliage is pretty in its own right, until you see the beautiful deep blue-purple pea-like flower spikes emerge in mid June. Easily four feet tall and three feet wide, Baptisia is a nice specimen perennial - one plant is certainly enough per grouping.

The size of the plant you purchase may lead you to think otherwise, though, since transplants are usually puny and take a couple of seasons to establish.

Site false indigo in full sun or part shade in rich soil. Refrain from moving the plant once it reaches full size or its deep tap root may be compromised.

Blackish seed pods are hardly decorative on the plant, but do look nice in autumn decorations.



One of my favorite blue flowers is Aquilegia vulgaris. Although there are many cultivars of garden columbine, we grow the species variety at Old Sturbridge Village.

It can be found in white, pink, maroon, purple, blue and almost black. Ours tend to be mostly blue in a hue hard to describe - perhaps more royal blue than purple-blue.

If the color is hard to describe, the flower shape is even more difficult- maybe something along the lines of nodding bells with reflexed sepals?

Lobed leaves are another attractive feature of this plant, although vigilance against the dreaded leaf miner is a must in order to keep it looking good. Here too, full sun or part shade will grow decent two foot to two-and-a-half foot wispyish plants- a size perfect for the middle row of the border.

Mountain bluet, or perennial bachelor button, as it is sometimes called, is one of my most treasured perennials.

There is nothing rare about Centaurea montana, or even all that unique about it. I just plain like its oversized cornflowers and their lovely true blue shade.

At eighteen inches tall it is another plant best suited to the middle row of the garden. Plant in full sun or slight shade for best results. Cut back after it is done flowering for a chance at late season rebloom.

Jacob's ladder, Polemonium caeruleum, is another of my favorite blue perennials. Its pinnately compound leaves surely resemble a ladder, hence the Biblical reference, but it is best known for its pretty cup shaped, light blue flowers that hang from multi stems growing 18 inches to 2 feet tall and blooming in May in part shade locations.

Have fun playing with blue hues this spring. By high summer blue will be few and far between in the landscape.

Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For 31 years she has held the position of staff horticulturist at Old Sturbridge Village. She enjoys growing food as well as flowers. Have a question for her? Email it to pouimette@turley.com with “Gardening Question” in the subject line.

When Kids move out  
to attend college...



When Kids move back  
in after graduation...



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### Correction Policy

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

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HISTORICAL WILBRAHAM

# Washington, Hamilton and Stony Hill Road

## Did George Washington travel through Wilbraham?

By Charles F. Bennett  
Times Editor Emeritus

One of my tennis doubles partners, Peter Simmons of Hampden who is a history buff, lent me a book to read by the famous historian Nathaniel Philbrick of Nantucket, who wrote the popular tomes "Heart of the Sea", the real story of Moby Dick (Viking Press) ; and "Mayflower" (Viking Press).



The book I borrowed is "Travels with George, in Search of Washington and His Legacy" and follows the journeys of our first president through New England and the South just before he was inaugurated.

The story got me thinking back to one of my columns a few years ago - I like to call it "before Covid" - when I reminded readers that George Washington was remembered when the great man supposedly traveled through Wilbraham.

So, if you don't remember that 2016 column, I am repeating it here:

### Story Passed Down

Did George Washington travel through Wilbraham?

A story about descendants of early Wilbraham settler Ensign Abel Bliss was passed down to Civil War veteran and author of "The History of Wilbraham - 1763-1913" Chauncey Peck by Bliss's great-granddaughter Catherine Mary Ann Antoinette (Bliss) Speer.

Abel Bliss built a log cabin on the Mountain near Ridge Road. The house descended to his son Oliver, from Oliver to his son John, from John to his daughter Catherine, according to Peck.

She told Peck that she had heard her father say that when he was a boy, he went out on the Bay Road, sometimes called The Bay Path (and now Boston Road) and was honored by a bow from General George Washington, as the General was passing along the road on the way to Boston.

Peck wrote: "General Washington, writing in his diary about his passing along the Bay Road at that place, says, 'it was rough and rocky.'" That particular part of the Bay Path is now abandoned, noted Peck.

Back then, the Bay Road led to tough terrain that came out over a hill to the current Maple Street and probably that was

why Washington thought it was so rough and rocky.

At that time Boston Road did not swerve to the right along the Chicopee River by the present Billiards bar. The state road was called "The Dugway" in the early 1900's. It now follows the river, goes under the underpass, goes by the Fire and new Police stations and intersects with north Main Street.

There were reports, said Peck, that the Bliss house was once a tavern, and that Washington may have spent the night there. But, in an afterthought it appears that Peck didn't quite believe Catherine's story. "I do not think it was so," wrote Peck. However, historians have noted that Washington did actually travel through Wilbraham twice and

### 54 Years Ago Firemen Fight High Winds

Here is a news clipping reported by my mom, Ethel M. Bennett, who was the Wilbraham correspondent for the Springfield daily newspaper The Morning Union from the 1940s through 1970s. From a May 1969 edition: "Members of Wilbraham's Senior Citizens are invited to attend the opening night's performance of "Summer and Smoke", a three-act play by Tennessee Williams, to be presented Friday and Saturday nights at 8:30 at the Wilbraham Junior High School auditorium, Mrs. E. Donald Riddle, president of the Wilbraham Community Theater, said Tuesday.

William Poleri is director and Armand Peltier, producer. Proceeds will go toward stage improvements at the junior high school."

stayed overnight in 1790.

"Travels with George" is the second book I read about George Washington. The first book I read of him was "Young Washington" by Peter Stark and tells about Washington's experience in the French & Indian War and explains how his struggles in the wilderness on the Pennsylvania frontier helped prepare him to be a founding father.

There again, it reminded me that soldiers from Wilbraham also served in that war. Two of



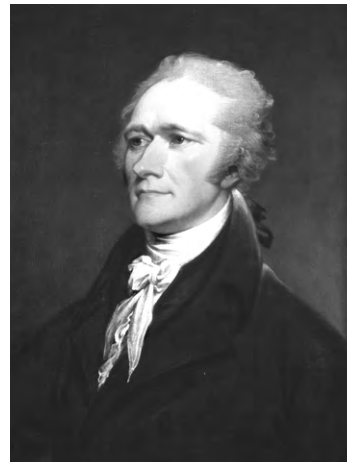
It was said that George Washington passed through Wilbraham twice. (Times file photo)



Wilbraham soldiers are remembered on the Memorial Boulder next to Glendale Cemetery. (Times file photo)

the soldiers, among a number of others who fought against the French and their Indian allies, have their names inscribed on the Wilbraham Soldiers Memorial Boulder that now sits at the edge of Glendale Cemetery. Daniel Cadwell and John Davis's names are inscribed at the top of a plaque embedded in granite on one side of the boulder. You can view the boulder by parking in the cemetery and walking towards the road to the stone that sits at the edge of Monson Road facing west (towards Wilbraham Center).

Daniel Cadwell served at



Alexander Hamilton was George Washington's secretary. (Wikipedia photo)

the Battle of Crown Point under Capt. Luke Hitchcock of Wilbraham. He then went on to serve with other Wilbraham soldiers in the Revolutionary War including the Battle of Quebec.

### Elsewhere?

What was going on in 1755 in the rest of the world while Cadwell was fighting the French and their allies? While Cadwell was busy campaigning in New York State, the British Army aided by young George Washington, was defeated by the French near Ft. Duquesne, now modern Pittsburgh.

1755 was also the year that Alexander Hamilton was born. Hamilton became the secretary to George Washington in early 1777, after Hamilton, a young artillery captain, showed promise during the tide-turning Battles of Trenton and Princeton,

Washington asked Hamilton to join his personal staff as an aide-de-camp. Historian Tim Ott on

the "Biography" website wrote, "Hamilton was passionate and impulsive, quick to voice his opinion and seemingly carrying a permanent chip on his shoulder from his origins as a child born to unwed parents in the West Indies. Yet the two (Washington and Hamilton) often saw eye-to-eye when it came to defending a country charting a treacherous path for independence, their complementary strengths proving a formidable force that blazed a path for crucial military and political successes."

Years later in 1804 Hamilton was killed in a duel with Aaron Burr. Benjamin Franklin wrote "Observations Concerning the Increase of Mankind Peopling of Countries" in 1755. Also, that year, an earthquake in Lisbon Portugal killed 30,000 people.

### Stones at Stony Hill Road

The Wilbraham Historic Commission made an effort in recent years to rehabilitate the stone wall fallen into disrepair along the athletic fields running parallel to Stony Hill Road. Since stone walls were vital when Wilbraham was a farm town, the Commission felt the walls should be upgraded and preserved for historical purposes. But, there was no room in the Community Preservation Act budget to pay for it even though thousands of cars pass that way every day.

According to the Charles Merrick's "History of Wilbra-

Please see **HISTORICAL**, page 8

## Community Newspaper EDITOR WANTED

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

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

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

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- Proficiency in Associated Press style
- Management experience and/or experience managing content for a print publication.

### Please send resume and writing examples to:

Eileen Kennedy, Executive Editor  
24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069  
or email directly to  
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# Girls on the Run celebration 5K is on Saturday, June 3

SPRINGFIELD – Girls on the Run of WMA will host its 5K event on June 3 at Western New England University. Girls on the Run is a physical activity-based, positive youth development program that uses fun running games and dynamic discussions to teach life skills to girls in third to eighth-grade. During the 10-week program, girls participate in lessons that foster confidence, build peer connections and encourage community service while they prepare for an end-of-season celebratory 5K event.

This spring season Girls on the Run has 1030 participants in 75 sites around Western MA, with 285 volunteer coaches that bring the curriculum to life. The run starts at 10:30 a.m. but the group warm up will begin at 10 a.m., with participants arriving for fun events at 9:30 a.m. About 4,000 people are expected at this 5K. The event starts with activities, a group warm up and more. This 5K is the culmination of a 10-week, 20-lesson social emotional program, bringing together all participants, coaches, running buddies and families.

Participation in the 5K event is open to the public and all proceeds from the event will benefit Girls on the Run of WMA. Last season's 5K event brought together 4,000 people, including program participants, their family and friends and community members. Registration cost is \$30 for adults and \$10 for youth and includes an event shirt.

This event is the culmination of the 10 week season and participants have learned many social emotional skills throughout the lessons. One participant from Springfield wrote, "Why I like Girls on the Run is because there is lots of positivity in the program so that girls don't feel ashamed of ourselves. Also, we get to meet new friends because we are encouraged to work with different girls each week and are able to get to know everyone on the team. Another thing I've learned is when I'm mad is to stop and take a breather and when I am feeling sad I can try to boost my star power by doing things I love to do."

Early arrival is suggested. Registration opens at 8:30am. Girls on the Run WMA is also looking for volunteers for this event. For more information about the event, how to register and volunteer opportunities, visit [www.girlsontherunwesternma.org](http://www.girlsontherunwesternma.org).

# Senator Jake Oliveira delivers first speech in state senate

BOSTON- On Weds. May 24, state Sen. Jake Oliveira delivered his first speech to the Massachusetts State Senate, eliciting a standing ovation from the Senate President and his colleagues in the general court. In his speech, after thanking the Senate President and those on the Senate Ways and Means Committee, Oliveira thanked his peers for their hard work "assembling a budget that will serve Massachusetts as equitably, inclusively, and as far-reaching as possible."

Oliveira also took the opportunity to advocate for an increase in state spending for public libraries through an amendment he sponsored, Amendment #688. The amendment seeks to increase funding and provide an additional \$750,000 to increase state aid to regional public libraries. Oliveira said the funds would ensure that public libraries have the resources they need to protect themselves and their collections and services from the current culture war being waged against free thought and free speech across the country.

Oliveira cited data from the American Library Association and the Pew Center for Research, which tracked thousands of challenges and bans to books across the country because they were either written by or featured people of color and LGBTQ+ individuals. Oliveira described libraries and librarians as being "on the front line in the fight to protect diversity, inclusion, and accessibility."



Sen. Jake Oliveira delivers first speech in the state senate. Submitted Photo

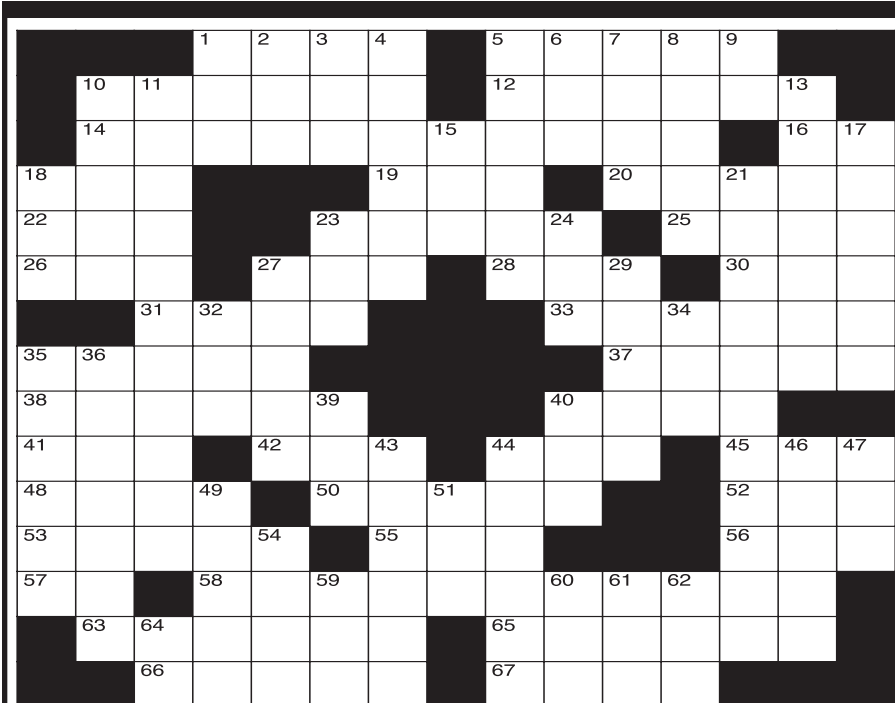
Oliveira also spoke on the various public library services provided to residents across Massachusetts that would be protected by the increased spending and talked about the public libraries in his district and the many services they provide to residents. Such as English language courses, job training, and legal help. Oliveira also described how libraries address the disparity in high-speed broadband access for lower-income families and provide equity to those families.

"Public libraries are cultivators of equity and inclusion, they are the last true community centers that we have, and they are open to all."

Said Oliveira, as he stressed how the funding increase would promote more resource sharing and provide access for the smaller libraries in Western Massachusetts that were particularly impacted by the pandemic.

Oliveira finished his speech by calling public libraries the "Heart of America" and implored his colleagues in the Senate to protect equity, inclusion, accessibility, people of color, immigrants, and LGBTQ+ individuals by protecting public libraries.

A roll call vote then approved Oliveira's amendment unanimously.



### CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Stopping position
- 5. Descendant of a notable family
- 10. Following accepted norms
- 12. Root vegetable
- 14. Having a shape that reduces drag from air
- 16. Integrated circuit
- 18. Records electric currents of the heart
- 19. Used to anoint
- 20. Japanese city
- 22. After B
- 23. Muffles
- 25. Pass over
- 26. Vase
- 27. Soft touch
- 28. A baglike structure in a plant or animal
- 30. Patti Hearst's captors
- 31. Israeli politician
- 33. Degrade

- 35. Type of wrap
- 37. Polyurethane fabric
- 38. Avoids capture
- 40. Vegetarians avoid it
- 41. Decay
- 42. Soviet Socialist Republic
- 44. Vessel to bathe in
- 45. Inches per minute (abbr.)
- 48. Frosts
- 50. Dipped into
- 52. Controversial replay system in soccer
- 53. Comforts
- 55. Needed for yoga
- 56. Ands/\_\_\_
- 57. South Dakota
- 58. Printing system
- 63. Dramatic works set to music
- 65. Highest points
- 66. Social division
- 67. Used to treat Parkinson's disease

### CLUES DOWN

- 1. Hill or rocky peak
- 2. Initial public offering
- 3. Type of light
- 4. Test
- 5. Flaky coverings
- 6. Former NFLer Newton
- 7. Part of the eye
- 8. Roman god of the underworld
- 9. Negative
- 10. Indiana pro basketball player
- 11. Replaces lost tissue
- 13. Denotes one from whom title is taken
- 15. Historic college hoops tournament
- 17. Hut by a swimming pool
- 18. Defunct European monetary unit
- 21. Feeds on insects
- 23. Adult male
- 24. Melancholic
- 27. Sheets of glass
- 29. Slang for famous

- person
- 32. Not good
- 34. "Ghetto Superstar" singer
- 35. The "World" is one
- 36. Used to make guacamole
- 39. Midway between south and southwest
- 40. Wet dirt
- 43. Ancient Egyptian name
- 44. Set of four
- 46. Strips
- 47. Wife
- 49. More dried-up
- 51. Socially inept person
- 54. Clusters on fern fronds
- 59. Bar bill
- 60. Prefix indicating "away from"
- 61. Very important person
- 62. Fiddler crabs
- 64. Special therapy

### HISTORICAL from page 7

ham", early on, Stony Hill Road was known as "the road to Wallamanumps" the name Indians gave to the falls of the Chicopee River that are now under Putts Bridge to Ludlow bordering Wilbraham and Indian Orchard.

"Putt" was short for Putnam, the man who built the first covered bridge over the river there. Later the Ludlow end of the bridge was given the forgotten name of "Jenksville" for the settlement at the north end of the bridge in Ludlow.

The history book says that there is an uncertainty of where Stony Hill got its name. It was speculated that it was called Stony Hill because it led to the district, also called "Stony Hill", on the other side of the bridge in Ludlow. An act of the Legislature in 1774 provides that the northeast side of the town of Springfield should be known by the name of "Stony Hill" because it bordered on the Chicopee River which runs through Wilbraham on one side and Ludlow on the other.

But, when surveyors in 1698 were measuring the Outward Commons, later called Wilbraham, to the south of what is now Boston Road they noted that they crossed the north end of Stony Hill before they

reached the end of their course. That part of the Stony Hill was definitely in Wilbraham.

So, in 1698 when the surveyors were doing their measuring, The General Society of the New East India Trading Company was founded in London. A tax on beards was imposed in Russia. Engineer and painter Henry Winstanley began building his Eddystone Lighthouse, off the coast of Plymouth, England, after losing two of his ships on the Eddystone Rocks. He finished the lighthouse in 1700. In 1774 the British closed the Port of Boston, Edmund Burke wrote "On American Taxation". The Virginia House of Burgesses decides to form the Continental Congress and met in Philadelphia with all colonies represented except those from Georgia.

Sources: "History of Wilbraham Bicentennial Edition 1763-1963" edited by Charles Merrick; Chauncey Peck who wrote "The History of Wilbraham, 1731, 1763-1913." "The Timetables of History" by Bernard Grun, a Touchstone Book published by Simon & Schuster.

Editor Emeritus Charlie Bennett is a member of the Historic Commission and a trustee of the Wilbraham Atheneum Society. Readers can contact him with comments or ideas for the column at [cbennett4765@charter.net](mailto:cbennett4765@charter.net).

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(L to R) Mike Normandeau and his service dog, Chowder, and Victoria and her dad, Tom Cardano, pose for a group photo during the Memorial Day Parade in Hampden. (Staff photos by Kristin Rivers)



(L to R) Miss Bay State Caroline Holladay, Miss Western Massachusetts Bailey Tatro, Miss East Longmeadow Madelynn Hardtke and Miss East Longmeadow Teen Maddie Mathias are all smiles during Memorial Day festivities in Hampden. They also walked the Memorial Day Parade route with Miss Hampden County Teen Laila Hosnander.



(L to R) Hampden Garden Club members Cheryl Perrault and Sue Austin welcome residents and oversaw raffle ticket purchases during the Plant Sale outside the Hampden Historical Society on Memorial Day.



Students from Next Stop Dance Studio break out in a dance while walking the Memorial Day Parade route on Main Street in Hampden.



Members of Girl Scout Troops 40160 and 65374 take part in the flowers in the river ceremony to remember the fallen during the Memorial Day observance ceremony at Veterans Park at Town Center.



Kairi Os shows off homemade candles she's selling at the Memorial Day Craft Fair outside Federated Community Church during Memorial Day festivities in Hampden. (Staff photos by Kristin Rivers)

**HAMPDEN** from page 1

ing out on a beautiful day. Thank you for the respect you show by honoring our veterans and people who have served," Flynn said.

During the ceremony, the Girl Scouts led the Pledge of Allegiance, with Minnechaug's choir singing the National Anthem and the band later performing "God Bless America" and "Taps."

Additionally, Minnechaug junior Dakota Joseph read her essay on "Why is the Veteran Important?" and Minnechaug Community Club members Christian and Cody Erskine oversaw the Prisoner of War/Missing in Action table presentation.

The ceremony also included Father Mark Selser of St. Mary's Parish and Pastor Skip Gunn of New Life Ministries leading the invocation and benediction, the Hampden Garden Club and Commander Brandon Morin laying the memorial wreath and the Girl Scouts leading the flowers in the river.

Sasen reflected on remembering, honoring and celebrating in his remarks, saying the fallen "were lives not lost in vain or anguish for each life lost has contributed to the evolution of America as we know it today."

"A free nation. A strong nation. A nation that stands tallest when we stand together, so we stand together today. We are reminded of the true cost of freedom and while we as a nation mourn the lives lost, we celebrate the lives lived and are forever grateful," Sasen said.

He added, "It is our responsibility to teach our youth that nothing comes without cost."

"Sacrifices are meaningless without remembrance," Sasen said.

Later, residents enjoyed free hot dogs and ice cream from the fire and police departments, a concert from the Bad News Jazz and Blues Orchestra sponsored by the Hampden Cultural Council, a plant sale led by the Hampden Garden Club outside the Hampden Historical Society

and a craft fair outside Federated Community Church.

Additionally, a "Local Lane" outside Town House featured organizations and vendors including the library, Daughters of the American Revolution, D & R Farm, local artists and more.

Beth Algie oversaw the craft fair, with vendors selling crafts including towels, candles, wreaths, cards and more.

She explained it's held every Memo-

rial Day in conjunction with the parade. The church also held the Pancake Breakfast earlier in the day.

"It's a beautiful day and there's been lots of people. The great thing is just bringing community together," Algie said.

She had this message on Memorial Day weekend.

"Just to have a wonderful weekend, enjoy the craft fair and enjoy each other," Algie said.

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# A COMMUNITY GALLERY

## Annual Fishing Derby . . .



*Life in & HAM*

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

# WIL HAM

The Annual Spec Pond Fishing Derby occurred on May 21 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The Wilbraham Friends of Recreation, in cooperation with the Parks and Recreation Department and the MA Division of Fisheries and Wildlife, held the derby two Saturdays ago. The Derby was open to all Wilbraham residents and non-residents of all ages. Trophies were awarded to the first 30 kids (12 and under) who participated. The grand prize for the two largest trout caught was a \$50 Dick's Sports Good Gift Card. (Photos courtesy of the Parks & Recreation Department)

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# WILBRAHAM HAMPDEN

## 'Friends of Wilbraham Seniors' Chairman visits Rotary Club...

Matt Villamaino, right, of the Friends of Wilbraham Seniors is welcomed by Wilbraham-Hampden Rotary Club Vice President Peter Salerno at the club's meeting May 24 at the Country Club of Wilbraham. Villamaino updated the club on funds raised for furniture, fixtures and equipment, so far, for the new Wilbraham Senior Center now under construction.

(Charles F. Bennett photo)



### Send us in your announcements!

Happy Birthdays, Anniversaries, etc. We will pick one each week to run here free of charge, please keep it to less than 50 words. Please send to [dzbierski@turley.com](mailto:dzbierski@turley.com)

## All Creatures Great and Small...

May 13 was a special day for the Federated Community Church on Main Street, which held its "All Creatures Great and Small" event on May 13. In addition to a variety of traveling farm animals, the festivities also featured K9 demonstrations from numerous police departments and agencies. (Photos courtesy of Beth Algie)



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# What you need to know about sunburns

## New immunotherapy offers hope to those whose Melanoma has returned

SPRINGFIELD - Whether basking in the sun (you shouldn't in the first place) in your backyard, at the local park, or at the beach, head these warnings, noted Dr. Richard Arenas, chief, Surgical Oncology, Baystate Regional Cancer Program.

1 in 5 Americans will develop skin cancer by the age of 70.

More than 2 people die of skin cancer in the U.S. every hour.

Having 5 or more sunburns doubles your risk for melanoma, the third most common skin cancer which causes the most deaths.

However, there is good news when it comes to melanoma.

"If detected early, the 5-year survival rate for melanoma is 99 percent," said Arenas.

Surgery is the main treatment for most cases of melanoma and can often cure early-stage can-

cers before they metastasize and decrease the likelihood of a cure. For patients with non-melanoma skin cancer, treatment options may include surgery and several ablative - the process to remove tissue from the body - approaches, such as cryotherapy and photodynamic therapy.

Today, immunotherapy, in particular the development of immunity checkpoint inhibitors - which rely on a person's own immune system to help kill cancer cells - is making a huge difference in how melanoma is treated. They are the first class of therapy to improve the overall survival for patients with advanced melanoma.

According to Arenas, we are only beginning to understand the impact of the immune system in fighting cancer by explaining that the use of immunotherapy before surgery can provide even better outcomes. A recent study published this year in the New England Journal of Medicine showed that patients with advanced-stage melanoma who were treated first with pembrol-

zumab, a particular immunotherapy drug, had a better chance of having their melanoma successfully removed with surgery and a better overall survival.

Arenas and the National Cancer Institute recommend these tips to protect your skin from sunlight, which can also be reflected by sand, water, snow, ice and pavement:

Wear a hat with a wide brim all around that shades your face, neck, and ears. Baseball caps and some sun visors protect only parts of your skin.

Wear sunglasses that block UV radiation to protect the skin around your eyes.

Wear long sleeves and long pants. Tightly woven, dark fabrics are best. Some fabrics are rated with an ultraviolet protection factor (UPF). The higher the rating, the greater the protection from sunlight.

Use sunscreen products with a sun protection factor (SPF) of at least 15. (Some doctors suggest using a product with an SPF of at least 30.) Apply the product's recommended amount to uncov-

ered skin 30 minutes before going outside and apply again every two hours or after swimming or sweating.

"All it takes is just a few blistering sunburns in our childhood to more than double our chances of developing a potentially deadly melanoma later in life. In fact, for a while now we have seen many more patients, especially women in their 20s and 30s, coming into our practice with melanoma and basal cell cancers," said Arenas.

The American Academy of Pediatrics and Arenas recommend the following tips for infants and children:

Babies under 6 months of age should be kept out of direct sunlight. Move your baby to the shade under a tree, umbrella, or stroller canopy. Dress babies in lightweight clothing that covers the arms and legs and use brimmed hats that shade the neck to prevent sunburn. If adequate clothing and shade are not available, it is okay to apply a small amount of sunscreen on infants under 6 months, such as on the

face and the back of the hands. Remember, it takes 30 minutes to be effective. If an infant gets sunburned, apply cool compresses to the affected area.

Kids should also cover up with clothes made of tightly woven fabrics. Cotton clothing is both cool and protective. Also, kids should wear a wide-brimmed hat and sunglasses with ultraviolet (UV) protection. Stay in the shade whenever possible and avoid peak intensity hours between 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Apply sunscreen with an SPF 15 or greater to areas of your child's skin that aren't covered by clothing. Before applying, test the sunscreen on your child's back for an allergic reaction. Apply carefully around the eyes, avoiding eyelids. If a rash develops, talk with your pediatrician. Be sure to apply enough sunscreen -- about one ounce per sitting for a young adult. Reapply sunscreen every two hours, or after swimming or sweating. If your child gets a sunburn that results in blistering, pain or fever, contact your pediatrician.



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# CAMPUS NOTES

## Sophia Noel of Hampden, named to Assumption University's Dean's List

WORCESTER – Assumption University has announced that Sophia Noel, of Hampden, Class of 2024, has been named to the University's Dean's List for the spring 2023 semester. Students named to the Dean's List must achieve a grade point average of 3.5 for a five-class, 15-credit semester to be included on the prestigious list, which is announced at the completion of the fall and spring semesters.

## Demos named to Dean's Honor List at Cedarville University

CEDARVILLE, OH – Andrew Demos from Hampden, majoring in Criminal Justice, was named to the spring 2023 Dean's Honor List at Cedarville University. This recognition requires the student to obtain a 3.75 GPA or higher for the semester and carry a minimum of 12 credit hours.

## Wilbraham residents receive degrees at WPI 154th Commencement

WORCESTER – The following students were bestowed degrees at Worcester Polytechnic Institute's undergraduate commencement:

**Caitlin Bonavita** of Wilbraham majored in Biomedical Engineering

**Gabrielle Poindexter** of Wilbraham majored in Robotics Engineering

**Angelo Ruggeri** of Wilbraham majored in Computer Science and Robotics Engineering

## Worcester Polytechnic Institute announces Spring 2023 Dean's List

WORCESTER – A total of 2,054 undergraduate students achieved the criteria required for WPI's spring 2023 Dean's List. The criteria for the WPI Dean's List differs from that of most other universities as WPI does not compute a grade point average (GPA). Instead, WPI defines the Dean's List by the amount of work completed at the A level in courses and projects.

The following students were on the Dean's List for Spring 2023:

**Nicholas Frangie** of Hampden, class of 2024, majoring in Computer Science and Interactive Media and Game Development - Technology

**Maire Murphy** of Wilbraham, class of 2025, majoring in Biology and Biotechnology

**Mason Perham** of Hampden, class of 2024, majoring in Data Science

**Jack Pszeniczny** of Wilbraham, class of 2025, majoring in Civil Engineering

## Laware named finalist for Intercollegiate Awards

NEWTON – Zackary Laware, a Lasell University student studying Communication from Wilbraham, was one of several finalists and winners acknowledged for their work at the school's radio station WLAS and TV station, Lasell Community Television by the Intercollegiate Broadcasting System.

Laware was a finalist for Best Sports Play-By-Play (other) for his coverage of the men's lacrosse team.

The IBS Media Awards hosted more than 1,000 people at its annual NYC ceremony, where the 2023 finalists were acknowledged for their work and winners were announced.

# Events & announcements schedule

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

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

## Rotary Club is holding a Calendar Raffle

WILBRAHAM – The Wilbraham-Hampden Rotary Club is hold-

ing another Calendar Raffle throughout the months of May and June to raise money for local community projects. Calendars will be on sale now through the end of June for \$10 each and are available from any club member.

The raffle is different from the one held last fall in that only cash prizes will be awarded. Prizes will be awarded every day of the month of June. "There will be a winner every day. That gives every entry many chances to win," announced club president Tracey Perry of Country Bank. To purchase a calendar contact Perry at 413-627-2571 or email [Happyrtr6@gmail.com](mailto:Happyrtr6@gmail.com). All proceeds will be given back to the community through various service projects and scholarships.

## Hampden Senior Center Trips

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

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

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

ment deadline Aug 1.

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

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

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

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

## Healing Touch Spiritual Practices at Federated Community Church

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

### OPPORTUNITY

## newspaper correspondent

Turley Publications seeks **Experienced Writers/Journalists** to produce news and/or feature stories of local interest for various towns and cities.

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### JOB OPENING

## STAFF WRITER

Turley Publications, based in Palmer, is seeking a storyteller who is curious about everything, and who understands how town government works to join our team of weekly reporters.

Experience in covering town government is a huge plus, and any experience in community journalism is as well. Staff writers cover all aspects of communities from features to municipal meetings to crimes and fires. Successful candidates must have people skills, plenty of curiosity and able to tell a story.

If you're a self-starter who enjoys community journalism and who can envision themselves connecting with our communities, we encourage you to apply for this position. Not a remote position.

### Qualifications should include:

- Bachelor's degree or equivalent experience
- A determination to get the story, whatever it might be
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## SENIORS



### AGING WELL IN WILBRAHAM

In follow up of an article in early May on forgetfulness, let's take a closer look at what happens to our brains as we age. Just like there are changes that occur in our skin, hearing and muscle tone as we age, so too are there changes in our brain that are a normal part of aging. You may notice that it takes you longer to learn new things, or to perform complex tasks like managing your finances. You might not remember information as well as you did, and you may misplace things. These are signs of mild forgetfulness. There are simple strategies that you can employ to help with these issues.

Mild Cognitive Impairment is a diagnosis that arrives after cognitive testing. It is described as people having more cognitive difficulties like the ones listed above – as compared to other people their age. These symptoms are not as severe as people with early Alzheimer's disease, and most are able to carry out their normal daily activities. As described by the National Institute of Aging, signs of MCI include: Losing things often, forgetting important events or appointments, having more trouble coming up with words (again, as compared to other people of the same age). Family and friends may notice memory lapses. Your anxiety over these issues can often make your memory problems worse!

Dementia is a term used to describe the loss of thinking, memory, reasoning, and behavior abilities that interfere with a person's daily life and activities. Alzheimer's Disease is one type of dementia, others are Lewy body dementia, frontotemporal disorders and dementias caused by vascular changes. Dementia is not a normal part of aging.

Common Symptoms of dementia as conveyed by the National Institute on Ag-

ing include:

- Being unable to remember things.
- Asking the same question or telling the same story over and over
- Becoming lost in familiar places
- Having trouble following directions
- Getting confused about time, people, places, handling money and /or paying bills
- Increased anxiety or aggression

Again, these symptoms rise to the level of dementia when they interfere with your ability to care for yourself.

Dementia is diagnosed by a medical professional, usually one with specialized training in brain and central nervous system issues. Treatments and medications are available to manage some of the symptoms of dementia, thus allowing the individual to safely live independently for as long as possible. There is no specific medication that can prevent or stop the progression of early symptoms to Alzheimer's or related dementias. Maintaining a healthy lifestyle with good nutrition, physical activity, exercise and regular socialization keeps the individual as healthy as possible. Promoting good sleep, limiting alcohol use and stopping exposure to tobacco smoke all assist in maximizing the quality of life. Using memory aides, to do lists, calendars and cues can all promote independence.

On a hopeful note, clinical trials/research studies are ongoing to determine if experimental medications and treatments will help future generations.

As always, feel free to send questions/comments to seniorinfo2021@gmail.com or leave a voicemail at 596-2800 ext 315.

*Linda Tatko Cooper for the Wilbraham Senior Center Building Committee*

### SCHOLARSHIP from page 1

Historical Society Building and local businesses.

The association is at the senior center on Allen Street.

President Nan Hurlburt explained the association and its members are happy to support budding artists in the community by providing art scholarships to students.

"Scantic River Artisans is very focused on reaching out to the community with an artistic voice, and we are very pleased to be a part of the scholarship program at Minnechaug and to award a very deserving art student," Hurlburt said.

Howell said that providing an art scholarship is one way to support the next generation of artists. The association's art exhibition shows, held four times a year, also help raise scholarship funds.

Howell understands the importance of art through her work as an award-winning author.

"As a local author and the secretary of Scantic River Artisans, I am pleased to support students in pursuing their artistic creativity. In addition, I find great joy in giving a voice to students in art by acknowledging their talents and giving them the confidence to follow their aspirations," Howell said.

She wants students to know the association supports them.

"Young, gifted students learning their trade, whether writers, artists, or artisans, need to know that the Scantic River Artisans support and recognize their creative talents," Howell said. "We welcome student artists from Hampden and Wilbraham to exhibit their artwork at our shows

and encourage the community to support them through their interest and attendance."

Looking ahead, Howell provided information on the association's participation in the upcoming New England Mosaic Project.

This year's event is scheduled for Sept. 23-24, taking place at the senior center.

"Each canvas tile was created by individual artists in Western Mass and Connecticut, and this fantastic event offers another opportunity to raise funds for scholarships. We invite the community to view the artwork on display," Howell said.

Hurlburt also encouraged the community to check out the New England Mosaic Project, hoping to raise more funds for future art scholarships.

"We invite the community to view the artwork on display on Saturday, Sept. 23, from 3-8 p.m., and Sunday, Sept. 24, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., in the Community Room, housed in the beautiful Hampden Senior Center, 104 Allen St.," Hurlburt said.

Howell wants the community to know the association is here to support all young student artists and to check out their future events or consider becoming a member.

"Our organization is strong and thriving. A community is only as strong as its support for the arts. Our mission is to give back to the community by offering them opportunities to visit our fabulous shows and assist young artists," Howell said.

To learn more about the Scantic River Artisans, visit [scanticriverartisans.com](http://scanticriverartisans.com).

## Monthly highlights for June at the Hampden Senior Center:

HAMPDEN – Reservations for special events and Grab & Go Dinners will be taken on the first business day of the month, on a first-come, first-serve basis. All other reservations will be accepted anytime.

### HELP US STOCK OUR SHELVES with Toilet Paper!

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

### Create your own Greeting Card with Ellie! Monday, June 5, 1-3 p.m.

The cost is \$3 per person; all materials are provided. Please call 566-5588 to reserve your seat for June or future dates. *Future scheduled dates are Mondays, July 3, Aug. 7 and Sept. 11.*

### D & R FARM:

#### Farmer's Market, Tuesday, June 13th, 9 a.m. to noon

Fresh fruits, vegetables, eggs, homemade canned items, breads, cookies, and more!

SNAP Accepted

#### Winter Farm Share, PICK-UP is Wednesday, June 14 & 28 at 9:30 a.m.

#### Summer Farm Share, Starts Wednesday, July 5 at 9:30 a.m.

FREE with SNAP/HIP if you qualify! If you do not qualify for SNAP/HIP you may purchase a share for \$40 cash per month. If interested, contact Wendy ASAP to get your application in! Shares are limited. Please call Wendy at 566-5588, or email [outreach@hampdenma.gov](mailto:outreach@hampdenma.gov) to sign up.

#### Drumming & Movement with Tara Six-week session on Wednesdays starting Wednesday, June 14 through July 19, 10 a.m. to 11 a.m.

Cost is \$25 per person if paid in full and includes one free class. Or, \$5 per class as a drop-in, space pending. Call ahead to schedule a drop-in class. Space is limited.

### The Longest Day, June 21

The Longest Day is the day with the most light — the summer solstice. On June 21, people from across the world will fight the darkness of Alzheimer's through fundraising activities. For a donation of \$5 or greater, you will receive a lantern to shine a light for a loved one living with Alzheimer's. We invite you to bring your lantern to our Longest Day events to remember and honor those we fight to find a cure for.

Lanterns are available now at the Hampden and Pleasant View Senior Centers.

Events will be held at the following two locations:

#### Hampden Senior Center at 7:30 p.m.

#### Pleasant View Senior Center at 8 p.m.

104 Allen Street, Hampden, MA  
328 North Main Street, East Longmead-

ow, MA

**Please call to sign up: Hampden at 566-5588**

**Pleasant View at 525-5346**

Donations for the lanterns support the Tri Town Walk to End Alzheimer's Team consisting of Hampden, East Longmeadow, and Longmeadow Senior Centers.

### Summer Kick-Off Luncheon, Thursday, June 22 at noon

Hot Dog with Bun, Baked Beans, Italian Pasta Salad, and Dessert!

Lunch is provided by Greater Springfield Senior Services: Suggested donation of \$2.00 per meal.

Music with audience participation performed by: Gary & Natalie Jones/Father & Daughter Duo!

Sponsored by the Polish National Credit Union and Bluebird Estates

Please call 566-5588 to sign up. Taking reservations beginning June 1<sup>st</sup>.

### Introduction to Ukulele Workshop, Friday, June 23 at 1 p.m.

Instructor Chris Foe from The Community Music School of Springfield will begin to teach you the necessary skills to master this accessible and charming instrument. This workshop is relaxed, but highly engaging, and designed to start you on the path of making music. The cost is \$5 per person. Please call 566-5588 to reserve your spot now. Space is limited.

### Grab and Go Dinner, Thursday, June 29, pick up is 2 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Sweet Sausage Grinders with Peppers and Onions, Pasta Salad, and Dessert. \$5 per person. Please call 566-5588 to order your dinner. Taking reservations beginning June 1<sup>st</sup>.

### Liz from the Hampden County Sheriff's Department will be here Friday, June 30 at noon

Lunch and learn session to discuss the following programs and why they are important for you and first responders:

File of Life Program

Is Your Number Up? (Is your house # visible from the street?)

Lock Box Program

Lunch is provided by GSSSI. Shrimp Fried Rice, Oriental Blend Vegetables, Whole Wheat Roll, and Mandarin Oranges. Suggested donation of \$2.00 per meal. Please call 566-5588 to reserve your spot.

The Friends of Hampden Senior Citizens is looking to fill two openings on the Board of Directors. If you are interested in joining the group, or you have any questions, please call Claudia Kapinos at 566-8896.

The Friends is a non-profit organization established to assist in fundraising efforts to support programs and activities of the Hampden Senior Center.

## NOTICE

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

## Polanie Club to hold meeting June 12

LUDLOW – The POLANIE CLUB will hold a regular meeting on Monday, June 12, 2023

at 6:30 p.m. at the Polish American Citizen's Club, 355 East St. Ludlow. Members, Please Attend.



# SPORTS

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Christopher Zayas gets the bump.



Tristen Hottin goes backwards for the hit.



Benjamin Wilson attempts a spike.



Photos by David Henry [www.sweetdogphotos.com](http://www.sweetdogphotos.com)  
Amar Gamidov gets the hit.



Michael Bigda tries to tip the ball over the net.

## Hall adds new lighting display

SPRINGFIELD – The Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame announced a recent addition to the museum’s iconic exterior, a state-of-the-art LED projection lighting display. The dome, one of the city’s most prominent structures, will be lit up every night and will display an array of festive colors and patterns for holidays and events throughout the year.

“We’ve completed a major renovation on the inside of the Hall, and adding this dynamic lighting package to the building’s exterior demonstrates our ongoing commitment to beautifying the property and enhancing the riverfront area,” said John L. Doleva, President and CEO of the Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame. “We couldn’t be more pleased with the result and to be able to help light Springfield’s night sky.”

In an effort to honor those who have sacrificed everything in service to the nation, the dome and building will be lit red, white, and blue this Memorial Day Weekend, May 25-29.

This summer, the Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame will light the night to celebrate the winner of the NBA Finals, Independence Day, Enshrinement Weekend, and more.

## Chaug volleyball prevails in semifinals

WILBRAHAM – Last Wednesday evening, Minnechaug boys volleyball defeated Longmeadow 3-2 in the Class B semifinals. The Falcons gets wins in the second and third sets while Longmeadow won the first and fourth to force a deciding fifth set, which Minnechaug won 15-12. In the win, Jonah Rost had 18 kills while Amar Gamidov had 16. Ryan Oldread had 21 assists while Hunter Ladouceur led the team with 23. The Falcons went on to the Western Mass. finals. Highlights from that match will be in next week’s edition.

## Blue Sox in need of host families

HOLYOKE – The Valley Blue Sox is still searching for a few host families for the 2023 season.

To be a host family, all you need is a private room for the player to stay in, food options, and access to a kitchen.

In return, 2023 volunteer host families will receive:

- Free general admission to all Val-

Please see **BLUE SOX**, page 16

## Falcons softball advance to semifinals

By **Tim Peterson**  
Sports Correspondent

LUDLOW—Everything must go the right way for a pitcher to throw a perfect game or a no-hitter, especially in a postseason game.

Minnechaug junior righthander Mackenzie Blair, who threw two no-hitters during the regular season against Northampton High School, nearly tossed another one against rival Ludlow in the Western Mass. Class A quarterfinals.

While the fourth-seeded Lady Lions ended Blair’s dreams of pitching her first postseason no-hitter with back-to-back singles in the bottom of the seventh inning, the fifth-seeded Lady Falcons advanced into the semifinals with a 4-1 victory at the Baird Middle School softball field in Ludlow, last Monday afternoon May 22.

“I really wanted to throw a no-hitter in today’s game because the Ludlow pitcher threw one against us earlier in

the season,” Blair said. “It would’ve been amazing if I could’ve thrown a no-hitter, but I’m very glad that we won the game.”

Minnechaug (9-10) was scheduled to face the top-seeded Westfield Bombers in the semifinals last Friday. They lost both games against Westfield during the regular season.

The Lady Falcons will also be playing in the Division 2 state tournament, which begins this week.

Ludlow, who tied Drury for the Suburban East League title, will enter the Division 2 state tournament with a 16-3 overall record. Both of their regular season losses came against Drury.

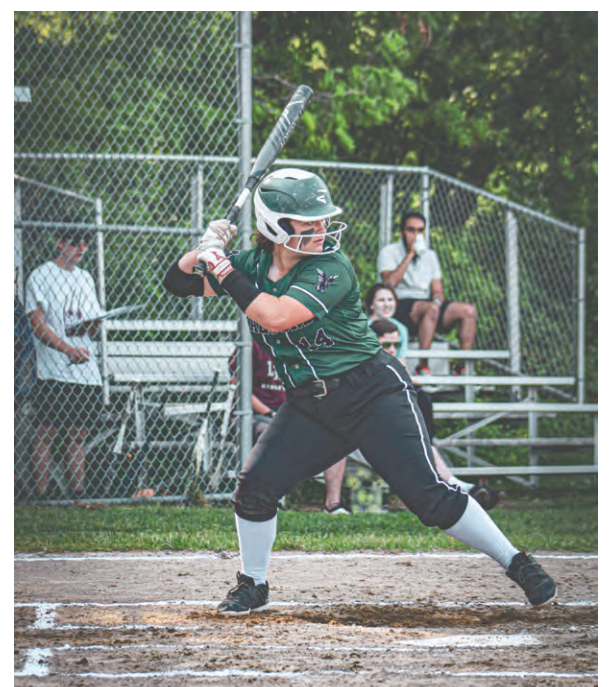
Molly Cole, who’s the first-year head coach of the Minnechaug varsity softball team, knew how Blair was feeling standing in the middle of the circle during the seventh inning of the quarterfinal game. Cole was an outstanding pitcher for the Lady Falcons and was in a similar situation in the 2009 Western Mass. quarterfinals against Pittsfield.

“It was my senior year, and I had a no-hitter going in the Western Mass. quarterfinals until I gave up a base hit in the seventh inning. We won that game 2-0,” Cole said. “Mackenzie was in the exact same situation in today’s game. She pitched very well, and she really deserved a no-hitter. It’s always a very special accomplishment whenever a pitcher does throw a no-hitter, but we won the game, which is the most important thing.”

Blair wound up allowing one run on two hits in the quarterfinal victory. She walked three and recorded 13 strikeouts. She had 14 K’s in the first meeting against Ludlow.

When the two softball teams met for the first time at Minnechaug Regional on April 7, the Lady Lions celebrated a 1-0 victory, as senior righthander Madison Sunderland hurled a no-hitter.

Sunderland, who’s planning to play softball at Bay Path University next



Photos by Sofia DiGrande

Please see **FALCONS**, page 16

Alexa Sherman peers in while at the plate.

# Hirschman dominates to win at Granite State Derby

LEE, N.H. – In the inaugural Granite State Derby at Lee USA Speedway, Matt Hirschman dominated early but came up short in the stretch. This time around, Hirschman would not be denied.

“Big Money Matt” took charge on the third lap and never looked back en route to his first NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour win of the year and his first at “New Hampshire’s Center of Speed.”

“We just finally closed one,” Hirschman said in victory lane. “These races are tough to win, and I think we should have had five or six of them in recent years.”

The Northampton, Penn., veteran started third and only needed a couple laps to get alongside polesitter and defending race winner Doug Coby. Once at the front, Hirschman checked out, maintaining a modest advantage over Coby, Sam Rameau and Jon McKennedy

as the leaders plotted their tire strategy.

Patient and clean racing through the pack was paused on lap 69 when Max Zachem spun down the frontstretch, opening the pit strategy window. Hirschman led the entire field down pit road for tires, then beat Coby and McKennedy back to the track to lead the field back to green.

Coby stumbled on the restart with clutch problems, sliding back through the pack as McKennedy and Austin Beers settled into second and third. Beers snuck past the reigning series champion and into the runner-up spot, but Hirschman was setting a steady pace at the front that the sophomore could not outmatch. The leaders prepared for one last pit stop, all the while managing their tires to go the distance if necessary.

McKennedy slipped back

around Beers with 25 laps to go, carving time off Hirschman’s advantage as the leader dispatched slower traffic. But the caution McKennedy needed to erase that advantage never came.

Hirschman, ever disciplined at conserving equipment, crossed the line 1.120 seconds ahead of McKennedy to win his sixth career NWMT race and his first since the 2021 season opener.

“We deserve better than what the results have been, and a lot of that is on me,” Hirschman said. “I take the most responsibility for that. But today, we delivered.”

Beers held on for third place, with Rameau and Ron Silk rounding out the top five. Coby raced his way back to sixth at the finish.

Hirschman’s win is a small step toward repeating last year’s Whelen Granite State Short Track Cup championship for car owner Roy

Hall’s Pee Dee Motorsports. Coby won the first leg of the triple-race program, the Duel at the Dog 200 at Monadnock Speedway.

In addition to the NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour, six more feature races kept fans on the edge of their seats with a mix of local and regional star power. Supermodified wunderkind Jeffrey Battle passed his uncle Eddie Witkum with the white flag in sight to claim victory in the 350 Supermodifieds. Tom Harwood prevailed in a three-way battle to win the 25-lap New England Dwarf Car Series showdown. The New England Pro 4 Modifieds staged their inaugural Dan Meservey, Sr. Memorial Race, with Brayden Meservey taking an emotional win for the family.

Massachusetts’ Ryan Kuhn topped Lee’s best Pro Stock racers, leading wire-to-wire in a

commanding performance in the 80-lap Pro Stock open. Wade Gelinus turned in a similar performance with the NHSTRA Late Models. And setting the stage for the night’s main event, Kyle Valeri took his first-ever win with the NEMA Lites.

The next scheduled event for JDV Productions is the inaugural Winchester Open Modified 100 at Monadnock Speedway in Winchester, N.H., where the JDV Open Modifieds will make their debut at “Mad Dog” Saturday, June 3. More information on this special event will be released later this week.

For more information on JDV Productions, visit JDVProductions.com and follow on social media for the latest updates throughout the season, including updates from the track on race day with feature winner posts.



Amy Dunklee fires over to first.



Mackenzie Blair fires in to the plate.



Catcher Aezline Rost fields the ball in the dirt.

Photos by Sofia DiGrande

## FALCONS from page 15

year, also struck out 14 batters in that contest. She added 16 more strikeouts to her career total in the quarterfinal loss.

Minnechaug junior shortstop Amy Dunklee quickly ended Sunderland’s hopes of pitching another no-hitter by hitting a leadoff double to deep centerfield in the top of the first inning.

“The Ludlow pitcher threw a no-hitter against us the first time that we played them, so I was eager to get a base hit in my first at-bat of today’s game,” said Dunklee, who led the way offensively with four base hits in the quarterfinal victory. “My double in the first inning really set the tone for the rest of the game. It felt great.”

Sophomore first baseman Abby Peyman drove home Dunklee with a hard ground ball single up the middle into centerfield. Then Blair helped herself by hitting a line-drive that bounced off the right field fence for a double, which scored Peyman.

Sunderland got out of that inning by striking out the next three batters.

Senior Rayah Landers drew a leadoff walk on a 3-and-2 pitch in the home half of the inning. Then a bunt by sophomore Ava Peczka was caught by Peyman. She then tossed the ball to sophomore second baseman Ava Peabody, who stepped on first base completing the double play.

The visitors from Wilbraham scored two unearned runs in the second inning.

Senior centerfielder Abigail Pronovost leadoff the frame by hitting a ground ball to the shortstop. She would’ve been out, but the first baseman bobbled the ball. A couple of batters later, Dunklee hit a pop-up single into shallow right field. Pronovost came home on the play following a throwing error by the right fielder. Peabody, who walked, scored on a fielder’s choice groundout hit by Blair.

The only other hits allowed by Sunderland were two singles by Dunklee and a bloop single to left by Pronovost leading off the bottom of the sixth. She was thrown out trying to steal second base by sophomore catcher Eris Learned. Blair didn’t have very much trouble retiring the Ludlow batters during the first six innings.

“I changed how I pitch since the beginning of the season,” Blair said. “I was throwing a lot more off speed pitches in today’s game.”

After striking out the leadoff batter in the bottom of the seventh, Blair walked junior shortstop Juliana Coelho on a borderline 3-and-2 pitch.

“Our energy level dropped a little bit following that walk,” Blair added. “I really thought it was a strike and then I allowed two base hits after that.”

Coelho advanced to second base on a wild pitch and scored when Sunderland ended no-hit bid with a sharp

ground ball single between the third baseman and the shortstop into left field. Senior centerfielder Aineliz Garcia-Cruz also lined a single into right field before Blair ended the quarterfinal victory with a pair of strikeouts.

## BLUE SOX from page 15

ley Blue Sox home and away games

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# Descendants of the 'Lost Towns' remember the fallen

By Paula Ouimette  
pouimette@turley.com

WARE – Generations of people joined together at Quabbin Park Cemetery this past Sunday to remember those that gave their lives for our freedom, alongside those that sacrificed their homes for the Quabbin Reservoir.

Master of Ceremonies Keith Poulin of the American Legion Chauncey Walker Post #239 of Belchertown thanked all for attending and participating in the Memorial Day program.

Poulin said this program was not only to remember those servicemembers who sacrificed for the freedom of all, but also for the people of the "Lost Towns" of Dana, Enfield, Greenwich and Prescott.

These four towns were discontinued in order to create the Quabbin Reservoir, which supplies drinking water to nearly one-third of residents in the commonwealth.

"The towns of the Swift River Valley have remembered their dead," Poulin said.

A tradition that has continued even after the towns were submerged under water; in a ceremony that takes place every Sunday before Memorial Day, amidst each town's monuments and memorials.

Over 7,600 graves were moved from cemeteries in the four towns, with the majority re-interred at Quabbin Park Cemetery. Spanning 82 of the 81,000 acres of land purchased to create the Quabbin Reservoir, the Cemetery is still active today.

Following a reading of the Gettysburg Address by Ware Scouts BSA Troop 7281's Senior Patrol Leader Cordelia Grandinetti, descendants from each of the four towns laid wreaths of red, white and blue on their respective monument.

Representing the town of Dana were members of the Coolsey family; Enfield, the Boyko and Jasnocha families; Greenwich, the Thresher family; and Prescott, the Currier and Bowen families. A fifth wreath was placed at the Schmidt Bench, by



Steve Boyko moves a wreath to the Enfield monument with the help of his son Charlie.



Wayne Thresher prepares to place a wreath on the Greenwich monument.

(Turley Publications Photos by Paula Ouimette)



Master of Ceremonies Keith Poulin introduced dignitaries.



Gene Theroux, president of the Friends of Quabbin, Inc., returns to his seat after reading "In Flanders Fields".

members of the Eleanor Griswold Schmidt family.

Friends of Quabbin, Inc. President Gene Theroux followed with a reading of "In Flanders Fields" after "Taps", the National Anthem, and a medley of each military branch's marches were played.

State Sen. Anne Gobi said it was an honor to be invited to speak at the program, her last before she assumes the role of the new director of rural affairs in the Executive Office of Economic Development.

She shared the story of World War II nurse Ellen Ainsworth, who was one of 350,000 women that served.

Of those women, 543 lost their lives, including 16 nurses.

On Feb. 10, 1944, while working at the 56th Evacuation

Hospital, Ainsworth made sure that all of her staff and patients were safe during a raid, Gobi said.

"No one panicked...and they all survived," Gobi said.

The next raid battered the Hospital, and Ainsworth was hit with a piece of shrapnel to the chest, but continued to work.

"There is nothing the enemy can do to us now to scare us" she said," Gobi continued.

Sadly, Ainsworth died from her injuries days later, just shy of her 25th birthday.

Because of women veterans like Ainsworth, "we are a better people, a better nation," Gobi said.

State Rep. Todd Smola noted that this was also the 50th anniversary of the U.S. military's withdrawal from Vietnam.

"It took a lot of time for attitudes and perceptions to change," Smola said of Vietnam. "We should never disagree about supporting those that serve."

State Rep. Aaron Saunders said he was struck by Grandinetti's reading of the Gettysburg Address and said, "the unfinished work" has continued," for freedom and peace in our country and beyond.

Saunders gave special acknowledgement to the four communities lost to the Reservoir.

"[They] gave themselves for the prosperity of the commonwealth," Saunders said.

State Sen. Jake Oliveira shared that his grandfather worked on the Quabbin Reservoir, and noted the depth of the

sacrifice the residents of the four towns made for its creation.

Oliveira said he also understands what it's like to be told a loved one has paid the ultimate sacrifice for freedom, sharing the story of his late friend Sgt. Joshua Desforges, who was killed in Afghanistan.

"I know that feeling in your stomach when told you lost someone," he said.

Poulin thanked all of the various participants that made the program possible, including area historical societies, veterans organizations, youth organizations, Department of Conservation and Recreation staff, and many more.

## Registration open for 2023 Bay State Games

WOBURN – Registration for the 41st annual Bay State Summer Games is now open. The 2023 Summer Games will include thirty sports with competitions from June 3 to July 29 at venues throughout eastern and central Massachusetts including Game On in Fitchburg, Boston Sports Institute in Wellesley, Union Point Sports Complex in Weymouth, and New England Sports Center in Marlborough. Bay State Games participants range in age from 5 to over age 75 and represent more than 300 Massachusetts communities as well as surrounding New England States in some sports. From grassroots participants to accomplished amateur athletes, the Bay State Games provide opportunities for the athlete in all of us.

Eight high school showcase sports will take place for a variety of sports, including baseball, basketball, field hockey, ice hockey, lacrosse, soccer, softball, and volleyball. Athletes currently in grade 8-11 who live or go to school in Massachusetts are eligible to attend regional tryouts during the month of June. These tryouts will

determine teams representing the various regions of the Commonwealth that will compete against each other in July. Check each sport page for specific eligibility requirements.

The Summer Games include a wide variety of individual sports including swimming, track & field, figure skating, pickleball, wrestling, weightlifting, archery, judo, badminton, and more. These sports are open to a wide range of ages and skill levels from youth participants to masters-aged athletes. Adaptive sport divisions in archery, swimming, and track & field are offered, as well. Bay State Games also organizes tournaments for pre-existing teams in girls lacrosse, rugby, and 6v6 field hockey.

The 2023 Summer Games will feature Game On in Fitchburg as the host venue for 8 sports. Bay State Games expects 1,500 athletes and their families to attend competitions at Game On during the second week of July. "We are excited to expand the roster of sports being held at Game On this year," said Kevin Cummings, Executive Director of the Bay State

Games. "This state-of-the-art facility allows us to enhance the athlete and spectator experience and provide a true Olympic-style multi-sport atmosphere for our participants."

An additional feature in 2023 is that in over a dozen sports, athletes who win a gold, silver, or bronze medal at the 2023 Bay State Games will qualify to participate in the 2024 State Games of America in San Diego, California. The State Games of America feature more than 8,000 athletes from over 30 different state games programs nationwide. To see the list of qualifying sports, please visit [www.stategamesofamerica.com](http://www.stategamesofamerica.com).

In addition to sports programming, Bay State Games offer college scholarships, a sportsmanship initiative, college internship opportunities, and a High School Ambassador program.

For more information on all sports in the 2023 Summer Games, links to online registration, and information on other programs, go to [www.baystategames.org](http://www.baystategames.org).

For questions, email [info@baystategames.org](mailto:info@baystategames.org) or call 781-932-6555.

## This Week in Rec

Andrea Rust, Administrative Clerk

As many readers know, our Spec Pond Complex and facilities offer an incredible variety of programming to our town. Baseball, softball, and lacrosse are in full swing with games and practices filling the fields every day of the week. The Pinney Pavilion is already reserved for nearly every weekend for the summer. Spec Day Camp registration slots filled in one day and the summer staff is gearing up for the start of Spec Pond Beach season.

Summer is almost here and the opening of the Spec Pond Beach season and Amy's Sparkle Park. Our clean, convenient beach area offers a family friendly environment with certified lifeguards. The pond water is lab tested weekly for quality and safety. A convenient concession stand with drinks, candy, chips and yummy ice cream treats are available for purchase. Season memberships are now available for purchase online and in the WPRD office for residents and non-residents. We offer a variety of passes to suit your family's needs. The beach season is Saturday June 17 through Aug. 20.

Additionally, don't forget to check out our exciting weekly summer programs for kids of all ages. From football, soccer, baseball, softball, golf and tennis to art, Legos, science, Circuit Labs, and Incrediflex you are sure to find something for everyone. Please visit [WilbrahamRec.com](http://WilbrahamRec.com) for details on each and to register.

NOTES: Soccer and field hockey registrations are coming up in mid-June. Be on the lookout for more information on these and other fall programs before the summer gets too busy.

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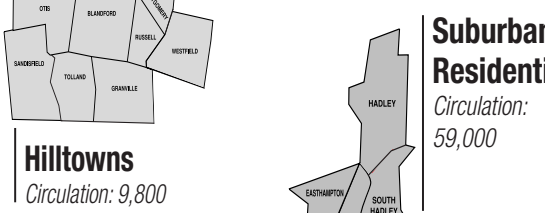
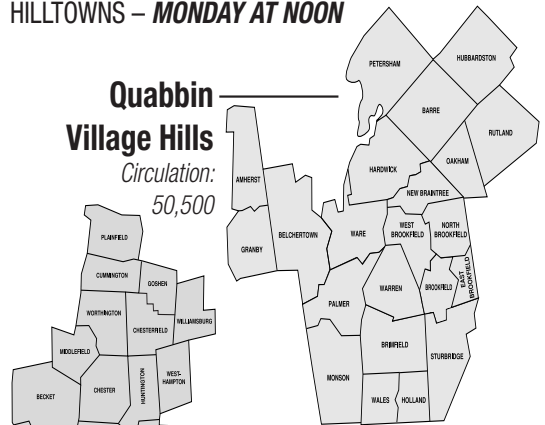
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21 Base Price \$26.50	22 Base Price \$27.00	23 Base Price \$27.50	24 Base Price \$28.00
25 Base Price \$28.50	26 Base Price \$29.00	27 Base Price \$29.50	28 Base Price \$30.00
29 Base Price \$30.50	30 Base Price \$31.00	31 Base Price \$31.50	32 Base Price \$32.00
33 Base Price \$32.50	34 Base Price \$33.00	35 Base Price \$33.50	36 Base Price \$34.00
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**BUSINESS**

**Bull has been named VP and Medical Director of Heart & Vascular at Baystate Health**

SPRINGFIELD – David Bull, MD has been named Vice President and Medical Director of Heart and Vascular at Baystate Health.

His appointment becomes effective at the end of August.

Most recently, Bull served as Chief, Division of Cardiothoracic Surgery, at the University of Arizona.

Bull attended medical school and completed a surgical residency at the University of California San Francisco and the University of Arizona. He completed fellowships in Vascular Surgery at the University of Arizona and in Cardiothoracic Surgery at the University of Utah School of Medicine.

He served as Chief of Cardiothoracic Surgery at the University of Utah for seven years and spent three years as the executive director of several

integrated practice units within the Cardiovascular Service Line there. He then became the Chief of Cardiothoracic Surgery and Professor of Surgery at the University of Arizona.

Academically inclined throughout his career, Bull has served on several national scientific and clinical committees and has published more than 130 peer-reviewed papers in medical literature. He has performed extramurally-funded translational research and holds more than one dozen patents related to cellular- and gene-based therapy.

Bull specializes in aortic surgery, valvular heart disease, heart and lung transplantation, and cardiothoracic critical care.

For more information on Baystate Health, visit Baystate-Health.org.

**Pathlight appoints Marcia Morris, of Wilbraham, as Chief Operating Officer**

SPRINGFIELD – Pathlight, a pioneering organization serving people in western Massachusetts with developmental and intellectual disabilities, recently named Wilbraham resident Marcia Morris as its new Chief Operating Officer. Morris brings extensive experience and a proven track record in the field, making her an invaluable addition to the executive leadership team.

Previously serving as the Head of Operations for the Developmental and Brain Injuries Division at ServiceNet Inc., Morris has a broad range of leadership experience, including oversight of residential group homes, community-based day programs, and Shared Living programs. Morris also spearheaded the establishment and management of a new clinic offering Physical Therapy and

Occupational Therapy services.

As the newly appointed COO at Pathlight, Morris assumes a critical leadership role, ensuring overall strategic and operational accountability for the organization's diverse service delivery programs and related administrative functions throughout Western Massachusetts. She will also play a key role in implementing new programmatic strategic initiatives and serving as a valuable member of the executive leadership team, providing direction and supervision to division Vice Presidents.

"I am absolutely thrilled to join the Pathlight team and be part of an organization that is truly making a difference in the lives of individuals with disabilities," said Morris. "Pathlight's mission resonates deeply with me, and I am wholeheartedly

committed to pushing the boundaries of innovation to empower and support individuals with disabilities. Together, we will build upon Pathlight's remarkable legacy and drive positive change in our community."

Morris' appointment marks an exciting new chapter for the organization, as her leadership and vision will drive the implementation of cutting-edge systems, further elevating Pathlight's service offerings.

"We are thrilled to welcome Marcia to the Pathlight team," said John Roberson, Executive Director of Pathlight. "She brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to our organization, and we look forward to her expanding our innovative services for the benefit of the individuals and

**PUBLIC NOTICES**

**TOWN OF HAMPDEN CONSERVATION COMMISSION NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

In accordance with the provisions of the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act,

(MGL CH 131, S 40), it's implementing regulations (310 CMP 10.00) and the Town of Hampden's Wetlands Protection Bylaws, the Hampden Conservation Commission will hold a public hearing on **Wednesday, June 21, 2023 at 6 PM** at the Town House, 625 Main Street, Hampden, for a Request for Determination of Applicability, (RDA), submitted by Tiffany Simkewicz & Nicholas Badeau for the property known as 33 Sessions Drive, also known as Assessor's Map 21, Block 148, to add a 12' X 16' shed. Additional information relating to this request is on file in the Conservation Commission office and available for review by the public by contacting the Commission. Anyone interested in or wishing to be heard on the request may appear at the time and place designated.

On Behalf of the Conservation Commission, Judy McKinley-Brewer, Ted Zebert, co-chairs  
06/01/2023

**WILBRAHAM CONSERVATION COMMISSION LEGAL NOTICE**

**Town of Wilbraham**  
The Wilbraham Conservation Commission will hold a public meeting on **Monday, June 12, 2023 at 7:20 PM** on the Request for Determination of Applicability filed by Eversource Gas of Massachusetts d/b/a Eversource Energy under the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act and the Wilbraham Wetlands Bylaw to determine whether the work depicted on plans submitted is subject to the Wilbraham Wetland Bylaw and the Wetlands Protection Act. The proposed project will consist of the installation of approximately 2,840 linear feet of new 6-inch medium pressure polyethylene gas main along Main Street from McIntosh Drive to Tinkham Road which will connect two existing gas main lines. Information relating to this application is on file with the Conservation Commission.

Christopher Brown, Chairman  
06/01/2023

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Hampden Probate and Family Court 50 State Street Springfield, MA 01103 (413)748-7758 Docket No. HD23P1045EA**

**Estate of: Lillian Louise Faudree Also known as: Lillian L Faudree Date of Death: 01/19/2023 CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION**

To all interested persons: A Petition for **Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **Steven R. Faudree of Chicopee, 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: **Steven R. Faudree of Chicopee, 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 06/15/2023.**

**This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the**

**return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.**

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

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

WITNESS, Hon. **Barbara M. Hyland**, First Justice of this Court.  
Date: May 18, 2023

**Rosemary A. Saccomani**  
Register of Probate  
06/01/2023

**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. HD23A0075AD In the matter of: Lorelei Sylvia Lalchandani CITATION G.L. c. 210, §6 TO:**

any unnamed or unknown parent and persons interested in a petition for the adoption of said child and to the Department of Children and Families of said Commonwealth.

A petition has been presented to said court by:

**Benjamin David Willis of Hampden, MA Niki Dupras of Hampden, MA**

requesting for leave to adopt said child and that the name of the child be changed to

**Lorelei Sylvia Willis**  
**If you object to this adoption you are entitled to the appointment of an attorney if you are an indigent person.**

An indigent person is defined by SJC Rule 3.10. The definition includes but is not limited to persons receiving TAFDC, EACDC, poverty related veteran's benefits, Medicaid, and SSI. The Court will determine if you are indigent. Contact an Assistant Judicial Case Manager or Adoption Clerk of the Court on or before the date listed below to obtain the necessary forms.

**IF YOU DESIRE TO OBJECT THERETO, YOU OR YOUR ATTORNEY MUST FILE A WRITTEN APPEARANCE IN SAID COURT AT Springfield ON OR BEFORE TEN O'CLOCK IN THE MORNING (10:00 AM) ON: 06/16/2023.**

WITNESS, Hon. **Barbara M Hyland**, First

Justice of this Court.  
Date: May 17, 2023  
**Rosemary A. Saccomani**  
Register of Probate  
06/01/2023

**Town of Hampden Notice of Public Hearing**

The Hampden Planning Board will hold a Public Hearing on **Wednesday, June 14, 2023 at 6:15 PM** in the Town House, 625 Main Street, Hampden, MA on the application of Bedrock Financial, LLC as trustee Cumberland Blues Realty Trust for Special Permit Approval for Substandard Frontage Lots for Parcels 15-035-0, Lot C and 15-035-0, Lot D under Section 7.2.4 of the Hampden Zoning Bylaw and Special Permit Approval for a Common Driveway under Section 7.542 of the Hampden Zoning Bylaw to access Parcel 15-035-0, Lot A; Parcel 15-035-0, Lot B; Parcel 15-035-0, Lot C and Parcel 15-035-0, Lot D. All parcels are located on Thresher Road and owned by Bedrock Financial LLC.

Information related to this application is on file in the Town Clerk's Office and is available for review by the public during normal business hours.

For the Board, **Madison Pixley**, Chair of the Hampden Planning Board  
05/25, 06/01/2023

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# PUBLIC NOTICES

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SINGLE FAMILY LISTINGS			
STATUS	ADDRESS	DESCRIPTION	LIST PRICE
ACT	26 Anthony Drive., East Longmeadow	7 room, 4 bed, 2f 0 bath Cape	\$390,000
ACT	4 Inwood Drive, Wilbraham	8 room, 3 bed, 2f 0, bath Ranch	\$380,000
CTG	144 Washington Rd., Brimfield	7 room, 3 bed, 1f 1 bath Cape	\$214,000
CTG	32 Edward St., Hampden	6 room, 3 bed, 1f 0 bath Cape	\$399,000
UAG	37 Woodland Dr., Hampden	6 room, 3 bed, 1f 0 bath Cape	\$284,900
UAG	48 Brimfield Rd., Monson	8 room, 4 bed, 1f 0 bath Cape	\$314,900
UAG	112 Duggan Circle, Springfield	5 room, 3 bed, 1f 0 bath Cape	\$249,900
UAG	160 Canterbury Rd., Springfield, E. Forest Park	7 room, 4 bed, 2f 1 bath Colonial	\$430,000
UAG	42 Main St., Wales	5 room, 3 bed, 3f 0 bath Contemporary, Ranch, Multi-Level	\$415,000
UAG	15 Rogers Ave., West Springfield	9 room, 5 bed, 2f 0 bath Colonial	\$390,000
UAG	122 Manchonis R., Wilbraham	5 room, 3 bed, 1f 0 bath Ranch	\$329,900
SLD	50 Joy St, Chicopee	7 room, 3 bed, 2f 0h bath Colonial	\$279,000
SLD	10 Murray Ct, East Longmeadow	6 room, 4 bed, 1f 0h bath Cape	\$249,900
SLD	160 Millbrook Dr, East Longmeadow	8 room, 3 bed, 3f 1h bath Cape	\$659,900
SLD	381 Rondeau St., Palmer	8 room, 4 bed, 2f 1h bath Colonial	\$290,000
SLD	14 Franconia, Springfield	7 room, 4 bed, 1f 0h bath Cape	\$249,900
SLD	748 Grayson Dr., Springfield	6 room, 3 bed, 1f 0h bath Ranch	\$256,870
SLD	122 Osborne Ter., Springfield	8 room, 5 bed, 2f 1h bath Raised Ranch	\$349,000
SLD	11 Ingersoll Grove, Springfield	12 room, 7 bed, 4f 1h bath Colonial	\$425,000

CONDOMINIUMS LISTINGS			
ACT	ADDRESS	DESCRIPTION	LIST PRICE
UAG	98 Fuller St. U:32 Ludlow	4 room, 2 bed, 1f 0 bath Garden	\$220,000
UAG	235 State Street U:305, Springfield	3 room, 1 bed, 1f 0 bath Garden	\$169,900
SLD	1 Mansion Woods Dr. U:D, Agawam	4 room, 2 bed, 1f 1. bath Townhouse	\$242,000

LAND LISTINGS			
ACT	ADDRESS	DESCRIPTION	LIST PRICE
ACT	0 Springhouse Rd., Hampden	0.72 Residential acres (31,531 SqFt)	\$87,000
ACT	Lot 1 Silver, Monson	2.83 Residential acres (123,274 SqFt)	\$84,900
ACT	0 Old Reed Rd., lot:6, Monson	8.50 Residential acres (370,260 SqFt)	\$99,000
UAG	4 Hilltop Park Wilbraham	20.20 Residential acres (879,930 SqFt)	\$259,900

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# 2023 Find Your Voice

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Free Summer Reading program for kids, teens & adults!

Online sign ups are encouraged by going to [www.wilbrahamlibrary.org](http://www.wilbrahamlibrary.org) or by using the Beanstack App.

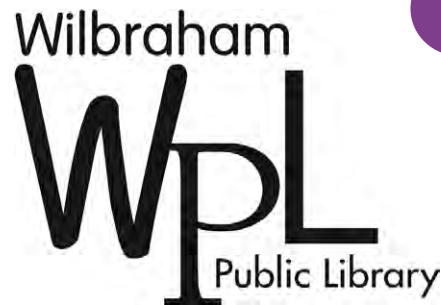
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Read a book and write a review; each review will earn a raffle ticket for great prizes. Up to eight books will be accepted.

The Massachusetts Statewide Summer Library Program is funded by the Massachusetts Library System, the Boston Bruins, and the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners, the Wilbraham Friends of the Library, the Wilbraham Cultural Council, along with partnerships with Pathways for Parents, One Book One Community, and donations from Rice Fruit Farm, Texas Roadhouse, Pafumi's, LUSO Federal Credit Union, and InterSkate 91.