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The Wilbraham-Hampden

# TIMES

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## Hampden's MEMORIAL DAY traditions endure

By Patricia Sullivan  
Correspondent

HAMPDEN — Just as they have for many decades, the people of Hampden and surrounding towns gathered along Main Street to observe Memorial Day with a parade and respectful remembrances of those who have died in service to the country.

Hundreds of people turned out on May 26 for the Memorial Day Parade and ceremony, plant sale, craft and bake sale and free hot dogs and ice cream. Many older residents in the crowd have been attending since they were children, while others were newcomers.

Jennifer Wood, who moved to Hampden four years ago from Chicopee, watched the parade with her husband, Brian, and three young children—all wearing red, white and blue.

"It's so picturesque!" Wood said, joining many

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Turley photo by Patricia Sullivan  
Hampden's antique 1937 Ford fire truck in the Memorial Day Parade.

## Wilbraham marks Memorial Day at Crane Park Veteran Memorial

By Kristin Rivers  
Editor  
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WILBRAHAM - The community gathered at Crane Park Veteran Memorial on May 25 to mark Memorial Day in an observance ceremony.

The ceremony included remarks from Patrick Renna, director of Veterans Services, the Pledge of Allegiance led by Elliot Sylvester of Boy Scout Troop 359 with the Wilbraham and Hampden Girl Scouts also in attendance, the Minnechaug Regional High School Choir performing the National Anthem, the Minnechaug Regional High School Band performing "God Bless America" and "Taps," the presentation of the Memorial Day Wreath by

the Wilbraham Garden Club and the laying of the wreath by Renna and 2024 Veteran of the Year Kathleen Kennedy and the POW/MIA Presentation presented by the Minnechaug Military Community Club.

In addition to Renna, Memorial Day reflections were also provided by State Sen. Jake Oliveira (D-Ludlow) and Select Board Chair Michael Squindo.

Renna reminded attendees to never forget the fallen who gave the ultimate sacrifice along with continuing "to remind the world that freedom is not free and that the actions of our military have preserved countless lives and liberated entire nations."

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Turley photo by Kristin Rivers  
Patrick Renna, director of Veterans Services, provides remarks on Memorial Day.

## Farmers Market kicks off on June 18

By Kristin Rivers  
Editor  
krivers@turley.com

WILBRAHAM - The Wilbraham Farmers Market is kicking off another season beginning on June 18.

This year's market will run every Wednesday on June 18 through Aug. 27 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at its new location at 45 Post Office Park, with all your favorite vendors and some new activities for all to enjoy.

Kellie Hummel, the market manager for Wilbraham Farmers Market, expressed excitement for the coming season.

"This is my second season running the market and our continued mission to bring the community together and to support our

local farmers and artisans," Hummel said. "Right now, we have about 20 vendors every week along with several youth entrepreneurs every other week. A majority of our vendors from last year have been able to return despite our time change, which is great. We also have several new vendors this season that we are excited to bring to the community."

Held in prior years at the Wilbraham United Church, Hummel explained what led to the location change to the Scantic Valley YMCA.

"We want to first thank the Wilbraham United Church for its several years of hosting us. There were a lot of factors relating to our

Please see **FARMERS MARKET**, page 8

## Knights of Columbus 10195 announces scholarship recipients

By Kristin Rivers  
Editor  
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WILBRAHAM - The Knights of Columbus 10195 announced this year's \$1,500 scholarship recipients during their May 20 meeting.

This year's awardees are Noelle Hisgen, Ryan Oldread and Madeleine Rooney.

All three will be graduating from Minnechaug Regional High School this year, with Hisgen attending Keene State, Oldread heading to the University of Connecticut and Rooney going to Bryant University.

Dr. Thomas Wadzinski, the Scholarship Committee's chair, explained the scholarship process.

"The scholarships are awarded based primarily on service work. Each applicant details their service work in three areas: local community, school community and the St. Cecilia's community. Each applicant writes a short essay about what inspires them in their service work. Other

Please see **KofC**, page 8



Turley photo by Kristin Rivers  
A group photo of this year's Knights of Columbus 10195 scholarship recipients with their families and members of the Knights.

## Families catch fish at 10th Annual Spec Pond Fishing Derby

By Noelle Hisgen  
Correspondent

WILBRAHAM - On May 17, the Friends of the Rec Department hosted their 10th Annual Fishing Derby at Spec Pond.

At the derby, children were able to fish at Spec Pond. They caught fishes large and small, and the first 30 kids who caught a fish were awarded with a trophy. There was also a trophy for who caught the largest fish, who was Kevin Shea, with a fish measuring 14 inches.

The Fishing Derby is organized by the Wilbraham Friends of the Recreational Department, which is entirely made up of volunteers which works with the Parks and Recreational Department.

Helping with the organization of the fishing derby was Nick Devanski, who coordinated the volunteers, and is also the treasurer of

the Friends or the Rec Department. Regarding the derby, Devanski shared this.

"It gets everybody out. It's extremely cheap for a family to come out, drop a line in the water, have some fun, getting some prizes, enjoy the park, enjoy the pond. It's a great family-friendly event," Devanski said.

Jim Legacy, a member of the Angler Education Program, was also in attendance along with other Angler Education Program Members, a Mass Wildlife Program which seeks to get people inspired to go outdoors, especially in fishing. They provided the fishing rods, volunteer instructors and bait for the derby.

Angler Education participates in many events across the state and strive to teach people how to fish.

"We want them to find some inspiration in the outdoors and to support our

Please see **DERBY**, page 4



Turley photo by Noelle Hisgen  
The winner of the fishing derby was Kevin Shea with a fish of 14 inches.

# Community celebrates spring at Annual Plant Sale

By Angelina Acevedo  
Correspondent

WILBRAHAM - On Saturday, May 17, at the Wilbraham Public Library, people had the opportunity to purchase plants not only from the Wilbraham Garden Club, but the Wilbraham Friends of the Library foundation.

This event brings together gardeners from across the area, rain or shine.

"Gardeners look forward to this event and they come prepared to talk with other people who are interested in similar things," Anna Howel, the incoming president of the Wilbraham Garden Club explains. "As a gardener myself, it's nice to come together with the community and share knowledge with others, whether they've been doing this for some time or only recently started planting."

Howel shared what attendees got to enjoy as they stopped by the library.

"Many of these plants are home-grown and donated by members of the Wilbraham Garden Club. People love that these plants are home-

established, and they come at a reasonable price." Howel said "We also provide the Memorial Day wreath for the ceremony in Wilbraham, and we regularly fill the library planters with flowers."

The Wilbraham Garden Club's turnout was great, with the sale being quite busy throughout its runtime. This sale was located in the back of the library, and plants could be purchased on sight.

On the front side, meanwhile, the Wilbraham Friends of the Library (WFOL), had their own event, where plants that were pre-ordered could be picked up. Customers could check out both events though, even if they didn't order a plant, and interact with even more gardeners in the community.

Jo Ayers, treasurer of the WFOL, explains how this plant sale started with Toi Graham, a Master Gardener.

"A few years ago, Toi contacted us in the fall after another plant sale, and had a lot of leftover plants and asked if we wanted to have our own sale. She also suggested the pre-order system," Ayers said.

Ayers was thrilled with this year's sales.

"This year our sales were extremely good, and we made more profits this year than our past sales. The main reason for that is word of mouth. Out of our three years doing this event, this one has been the most prolific," Ayers said.

The WFOL runs this plant sale semi-annually, with one in the spring and one in the fall, with the upcoming fall slated for October.

After being asked about why these events are important, Ayers said this.

"We run these events to provide for the community through the WFOL. We bring funds to support parts of the library, like the Teen Advisory Board. The Government funds our libraries, but not these programs that help benefit and create events for our town," Ayers said.

This year, the plants grew upwards of 24 inches, and people raved about how "they're so healthy, and we haven't gotten a single complaint!" Ayers added.

"This year, we asked people to send photos of the



Turley photos by Angelina Acevedo  
Anna Howel (second on left), and members of the Wilbraham Garden Club at their plant sale.

plants in August so we can see how much they've grown," Ayers said.

Orders this year were up to 16, 17, and even 19 plants, so they're expecting lots of pictures showing off the plants' amazing growth.

These two events, while for different organizations, helped bring together the community with the common interest and love of gardening. Attendees of either, or both, were more than excited to get home and start planting their new foliage, and glad to come together with like-minded people for a day of fun.



From left to right: Mary Bandouveres, Jo Ayers, and Gayle Fogarty, members of the WFOL in front of the Wilbraham Public Library for their semi-annual plant sale.

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HAMPDEN

# SB discuss police chief replacement process

By Kristin Rivers  
Editor  
krivers@turley.com

HAMPDEN - The Selectboard met with Police Chief Scott Trombly on May 27 to discuss the replacement process after it was announced he would be retiring from the police department.

The announcement was first shared during the board's May 19 meeting.

After Trombly explained to the board that July 17 is planned to be his last day and Chair Don Davenport asked about the replacement process, he explained how it's been done "a few different ways over the last several years."

"The most recent that we had before I became chief, the board opted to do an interim chief for the period of time. Well, the interim chief looked at the inside of the agency to find out if there was any candidates that were qualified to become our next chief," Trombly said.

Trombly added there's interim chief services sponsored through MassChiefs which could also be utilized.

"We can appoint an acting chief if there was a feel for that by our board and then there's a process that we have to look to for searching for a new chief," Trombly said.

Davenport then asked about certification.

"Does POST have anything to do with this? I mean, is there like a sort of chief certification or...?" Davenport said.

Trombly replied a chief is certified through POST and the town does certify their chiefs through them.

"So, what we're going to be looking for is a chief that's going to be certified," Trombly said. "So, usually it's based on the A through H, the alphabet of what their last name is. So, me, I'm certified to 2027 because I'm a

T. So, there's A through H's that their certification of the first three years is expiring on 2026, so if we find someone with the last name A through H, then that chief is going to be up for a recertification, which usually comes down through the town administrators involved and it's a list of questions, make sure that they've completed their in-service, make sure that they've done their online or in-person in-service, done any in-house type of training for firearms, first responders and then they have been a prior police officer that's been accepted or already certified once before. So, POST does have a say--obviously--at some point in a way."

When Selectboard Member John Flynn said Trombly was talking about "a lateral chief move, somebody who's already a chief" and he confirmed yes, Davenport again mentioned certification and Trombly clarified everyone is POST certified.

"So, if you were to step up to become a chief, then at the time of your last name coming, you would be certified as a chief at that point in time. So, currently, any officer that's certified through POST would come through the chief of police who--or my designee-- I would certify them," Trombly said. "If you're a chief of police through the town administrator, manager and i.e. the Selectboard, are the ones who the bosses that would make sure that that certification is (done). So, Brian would be signing off on the chief certification. Bob Markel signed off on mine."

When Davenport asked, "is it different than just a police officer," which Flynn said was the question before them, Trombly replied, "No."

"We're all police officers in Massachusetts recognized by POST. Certified police officers. You're just actually the chief of police has the

same questions that are asked of you and the same status," Trombly said.

Davenport noted the last time Hampden had an interim police chief "was because we only had, I believe, two weeks notice."

"It was pretty short notice," Flynn confirmed.

After Trombly noted for that instance, it was a 30-day window while his went to a 60-day window, Town Administrator Brian Domina confirmed the window in the contracts was changed to 51 days.

Trombly added he's communicated with assessment centers for input.

"There are interviews that are just done--per se--by the Board of Selectmen of putting out something and the generalized posting of either full-time, really, like I mean we're going to be looking for another full-time officer and it's bringing in the resumes, reviewing them and trying to put on someone right away before someone takes them," Trombly said.

For chiefs, Trombly said "it's a little bit different" where individuals that apply want to visit the community "and lead in a way."

"So, they're coming to and applying to here, they're not looking to jump all over the place. So, there's that 30-day window that they've suggested that you put out for. Approximately 30 days, could be less and see what you got for your candidates and then choose to do an assessment center if you wanted to or we could obviously have a Search Committee," Trombly said.

He added assessment centers are independent groups and range from "\$6,000 to \$12,000, \$13,000 depending what you want done."

"You could have a full-blown search which they come in and push it out to out of state, in-state, any oth-

er New England chiefs, just all over the place. Then they come in and do the whole process and come to the board with three or four candidates or the top two candidates," Trombly said.

The other part, Trombly said, can be the town administrator and board get together and put out a general job description of what the town is looking for, the qualifications, degrees, years of service and rank. From the interviews, narrow the pool down to three or our candidates and go through an assessment center to review any complaints, budgeting and other items a town would not want to have.

"And then, you make that pick at that point of the top candidate," Trombly said.

Flynn expressed hesitancy given the board had only two members at the moment.

"To do some things before we get our third member--because this is a big step for the town and should we have that interim at the same time--which would almost lead back to, again, what we did last time, an interim," Flynn said. "Somebody we appoint that is probably not interested in the full-time job, which is good, because last time worked out great I thought."

Trombly affirmed that can be an option and there are recently retired chiefs in Western Mass--who also are still knowledgeable about the job--and some in Eastern Mass who could be interested if the board goes this route. He added the small-town environment would be considered by the agency for their suggestions.

After Davenport shared his similar concerns and further discussion, Trombly said he would reach out to MassChiefs the following day for anyone who might be interested. The board will think further about how to proceed with the process.

## Hampden residents vote both ways on Green Meadows school items

The school was discussed at the ATM May 12.

By Dalton Zbierski  
Correspondent

HAMPDEN - Green Meadows Elementary School on North Road was the subject of discussion during Hampden's Annual Town Meeting on May 12.

Three items concerning the school were put to a vote, and only one was approved.

The articles were Articles 20 through 22 on the town meeting warrant.

First, a proposed \$35,000 project to replace flooring in five to six classrooms at the school was brought to the table. The Advisory Committee recommended favorable action.

However, the Selectboard moved to amend the article to no action.

Selectboard Member John Flynn said that it came to the

board that as part of the capital request for upgrades at the school, the Hampden-Wilbraham Regional School District was going to spend \$30,000 to complete the floorwork project.

Flynn described this as "laudable," but explained why the board encouraged no action.

"We did mention to them that per the regional agreement, the town is responsible only for capital projects of \$35,000 and more. Then, it came back to us that, 'Oh, now it's going to be \$35,000.' We were like, 'You were good with \$30,000, and now it's \$35,000.'"

Flynn added that the board cannot support the item in good faith.

"We certainly support them replacing the floors, which is a multi-year project," Flynn said. "You're going to do five or six classrooms? Okay, keep it inside the budget and do four or five classrooms."

When asked to vote, the town's residents supported the

Selectboard's call for no action on the item.

The second warrant item pertaining to Green Meadows school involved a \$35,000 appropriation to repair the parking lot and extend the fire lane on the property.

The Advisory Committee recommended unfavorable action. Committee Chair Doug Boyd explained why.

"The reason Advisory does not support the request is because it is an ill-defined proposal. We had asked the representatives from the school district specifically what it meant for parking lot repairs and the extension of the fire road, and we never did get an explanation that warranted this type of an expenditure," Boyd said.

Town Treasurer Richard Patullo also shot down the item, saying he was not in favor of it.

"The main reason is the School Committee has not been able in three separate meetings to define what the scope of work is," Patullo said.

"There's no good explanation. They met with the Advisory and the Selectmen, they came to the Advisory hearing, and I'm hearing nothing new tonight. They're not telling us what they're doing with the money."

Fire Chief Ed Poulin also weighed in, saying he was unfamiliar with the proposed project.

"I have no understanding of the fire road. We did not request it. The School Committee didn't come to us and request an evaluation of it," Poulin said. "If you provide access around a building, it's always a win-win situation. I'm not saying not to vote for it. If someone feels it's necessary, by all means, vote for it."

The town eventually voted against the item.

Residents did vote in favor of a \$92,500 appropriation for computer hardware upgrades at the school. The article passed, but not unanimously. The work will involve replacing switches for the IT network.

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■ WILBRAHAM

# Wilbraham moderator joins Select Board for town meeting recap

Overall, the town officials thought the May 12 meeting went well

By Dalton Zbierski  
Correspondent

WILBRAHAM – A week following Wilbraham’s Annual Town Meeting on May 12, Town Moderator Jane Clark met with the Select Board to discuss how the event played out.

During her appearance on May 19, Clark expressed her opinion that the gathering went well. Despite it lasting approximately four hours, Clark gave the town meeting a favorable rating.

“Overall, I was 90% happy with the way it went,” Clark said. “In spite of the length, things went fairly smoothly until the end, and it got a little messy.”

Clark acknowledged that in preparation for the fall town meeting, she needs to work on gaining a better understanding of the process of citizen petitions. If she improves in this area, Clark is confident that future meetings will proceed more quickly.

Following the meeting, Clark heard a variety of feedback from residents. She shared some of the insight she was processing in the days following the May 12 meeting.

“I had a couple comments from people wanting

to see our meetings more user-friendly and inclusive,” Clark said. “What I noticed was that no matter how much information you may give the public and make things available to the public, there are always going to be those folks who don’t have time and want it at that moment.”

Select Board Clerk Sue Bunnell agrees, especially when it comes to getting voters more acquainted with budget numbers before the event. She hopes that the town can find a way to better educate the public on the issues in the weeks leading up to the big town meeting.

“We need to be more emphatic about creating opportunities and creating links to them and making sure they’re accessible and promotable,” Bunnell said.

Bunnell added that state resources may be available to help the town accomplish this. Either way, she hopes it is an issue that is prioritized moving forward.

“I think that we just need to get more aggressive about creating and reminding people that they do have other opportunities and encourage people’s participation. I also think that for this coming year I would very much like us to dip further into the resources that are available from the [state] because they do a bunch of trainings,” Bunnell said.

Select Board Vice Chair Marc Ducey felt that the town meeting was a success, but does hope that the event

can be shortened down the line.

“The one thing I would like to see us do a better job is better utilizing the Fall Town Meeting and making the Annual Town Meeting smaller. Pushing some of the stuff to the fall, where we don’t usually have as much on the agenda and making it more management in terms of time,” Ducey said.

According to Ducey, “It’s a lot to ask of the residents to stick in and handle a four-hour meeting.”

Select Board Chair Michael Squindo, who earned the new designation on May 19, said that while this year’s town meeting was longer than last year’s, he felt its pace was much stronger. He added that most of the people who wanted to speak were able to.

Making an observation based off professional experience, Squindo also let Clark know she did a good job on May 12.

“I have had the privilege of sitting through several different town meetings in different towns for my day job. I’ve also seen some really good moderators and have seen some really bad moderators,” Squindo said to Clark. “I thought you did a fine job. I thought it was a very well-paced meeting, and I thought you did a very good job moderating the crowd when it got a little riled.”



Turley photos by Noelle Hisgen  
The Guberow family enjoying their day at Spec Pond during the fishing derby.

DERBY from page 1

doors, whether they just need to, these are great tools,” Legacy said. “The phone and everything that you use technology wise are great tools, but we want people to get some inspiration in the outdoors. You’re a lot healthier if you find something you like in the outdoors and fishing is just one of them.”

In attendance was also Erin Carroll, the assistant director for the Friends of the Rec Department.

“It’s just a great community event that brings everyone together. It’s affordable, it’s good to start the season off here at Spec Pond, see the beauty of the fields, just feel this out and about and get ready for the spring and summer seasons,” Carroll said. “I just like seeing that everybody happy, the kids working with their parents and friends. Just enjoying the simplicity of life, just fishing and having some dusts from races and interacting and just overall having a nice weekend and some fun.”

Helping out at the Derby was Sarah Quinn and Jim



Sarah Quinn (Left) and Jim Hickson (Right) Holding up donuts from Rice’s Fruit Farm.

Hickson, both on the Friends of the Recreation board.

“It’s a good community event. The kids really enjoy it, adults too. It brings everybody together for a fun afternoon and enjoy Spec Pond,” Quinn said.

“Fishing is a good activity, they should pick it up and enjoy a good day with the community, come out here, and maybe get an appreciation for

fishing,” Hickson said.

At the Fishing Derby, also, was Kinga Guberow, whose children Leo and Ariana were participating in the derby.

“My daughter never fished before and my son has just once before, and we thought this would be a nice opportunity to take them both out, because we’ve been talking about going fishing for a while,” Guberow said.

## Newspaper editor to speak at Open House

WILBRAHAM – Times Editor Kristin Rivers will be the guest speaker on Sunday, June 8 at the Wilbraham Athenaeum Society’s Old Meeting House Museum Open House at 2 p.m. The open house is free and open to the public. Refreshments will be served and the Gift Shop will be open.

Rivers follows in the footsteps of previous Times editors, Charlie Bennett, Tyler Witkop and Dalton Zbierski who have given talks at the Museum about newspapers as the first draft of history.

The Wilbraham-Hampden Times, a publication started at the Peach Festival by the Turley Family in 2003, publishers of the Ludlow Register, Palmer Journal and Belchertown Sentinel

and others, is the paper of record in Wilbraham.

A Smith College graduate, Rivers is also the editor of the Chicopee Register, a Turley publication. Before she became editor of the Times in 2023, she was a contributing writer on varying topics of digital publishing for the website “Medium”. As a freelance correspondent, she was praised for her quick article turnarounds, writing skills and photography.

She has been a content marketer for nearly 100 inspirational and women’s fiction books published by Hallmark Publishing, Harpeth Press, Tyndale and Waterbrook companies. As a social media manager, Rivers has covered topics such as interior design, the busi-

ness world, publishing and nonprofits.


After taking over for Zbierski, Rivers quickly became popular with Wilbraham and Hampden residents, educators, elected officials and community characters showing up at various meetings and social get-togethers around the towns. “She has the kind of personality that makes her recognizable and easy to talk to,” said former editor Charlie Bennett.

This season the Athenaeum Society, which operates the Museum for the town hosts all open houses in the historic building itself or outside in the garden.

For more information about the Open House see the Old Meeting House Museum’s Facebook page.




Jim Legacy (Left) and Nick Devanski (Right) stand in front of a banner from Westfield Savings Bank, the main sponsor for the Fishing Derby.



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VIEWPOINTS



GSHFH accepts repair applications for vets, wants military volunteers

By Brandice J. O’Brien  
Marketing and Communications Manager,  
Greater Springfield Habitat for Humanity

WEST SPRINGFIELD - Greater Springfield Habitat for Humanity (GSHFH) is now accepting applications for limited-income veterans and their families in need of “critical” home repairs. Projects can include interior or exterior work that eases health, life, and safety issues, or eliminates code violations.

These projects are made possible through the Repair Corps program, a joint initiative between Habitat for Humanity International and The Home Depot Foundation. Applications are accepted on a rolling basis and are reviewed as funding becomes available.

“If you are—or know—a veteran who could benefit from our services, please encourage them to contact us,” said GSHFH Executive Director Aimee Giroux. “While we are not an emergency service provider and our funding is limited, we will do everything we can

to help—or connect them with other organizations that can.”

The Repair Corps program is available to homeowners who have an honorably-discharged veteran living full time at their residence. The veteran doesn’t have to be the homeowner. Qualified families must also be willing to accept the program’s selection criteria: a need, willingness to partner, and ability to repay through affordable micro-loans.

Applications can be found at [habitatspringfield.org/home-preservation](http://habitatspringfield.org/home-preservation). Once on the webpage, click on “Apply for home preservation.”

Greater Springfield Habitat is also looking for veteran and military-connected volunteers to help with construction and to join our event committee, to increase awareness of the veteran program.

“If you’d like to volunteer, we would love to have your support on a project,” Aimee said.

For more information, email [support@habitatspringfield.org](mailto:support@habitatspringfield.org).

Letters to the Editor

Vote yes on fire station expansion and renovations

To The Editor:

On June 23, Hampden residents will be voting on a Debt Exclusion to fund a sizable addition and renovation to the fire station. This proposed renovation will essentially double the size of the existing fire station, built nearly sixty years ago, at a cost estimated to be \$8.3 million dollars. When you head to the polls to cast your vote, I would ask that you consider the following information:

Today’s fire service requires continual firefighter training to stay current with technological changes, new emerging hazards, safety, strategy & tactics, and emergency medical training, just to name some of these demands. The current fire station lacks both the adequate facilities and the technology needed to conduct training in a modern-day fire department.

What met the town’s needs sixty years ago does no longer, and has not for some time. When materials that are found in today’s homes and buildings burn, the by-products of that combustion contain a multitude of carcinogens, otherwise known as cancer causing agents. Because of this, firefighters are 14% more likely to die from cancer than the general population. To protect themselves, firefighters must take appropriate steps after fighting a fire. These steps include, but aren’t limited to the extracting of the products from combustion on their protective clothing before it is used again. Firefighters must shower and change into fresh clothing as soon as practical, and the contaminated clothing should be laundered separately before being worn again. The current fire station has limited facilities for firefighters to properly decontaminate themselves before returning home to their families, or their gear before the next fire.

The fire apparatus is shoe-horned into the apparatus bays that are much too small for modern fire apparatus. Maintenance and cleaning of the apparatus and equipment is nearly impossible in the existing structure. There are no offices to support reporting, documentation, and various administrative requirements.

The proposed project will remedy these and other unmet needs of our firefighters. It is time for us to protect those volunteers who are committed to protecting us. Please vote yes on June 23.

Thank you,

Eric Madison,  
Hampden

USA Flag use as decoration?

To the Editor:

Is it OK to use a flag of the USA for decoration? Understanding proper flag etiquette? Occasionally you may have seen commercial Automobile Sales Lots with many American Flags placed along the frontage of their property in the past and today I saw several residential properties on Springfield Street in Wilbraham doing the same, displaying many American Flags across the frontage of their properties.

I am not questioning the patriotism of those who display the flag in that way, but I wish they would take into account what is generally excepted. More is not always better.

The question of whether it’s acceptable to use a flag for decoration is a nuanced one, deeply rooted in tradition and respect.



The short answer is: it is generally not recommended to use the American flag as a decorative item in the same way one might use other materials.

Instead, the U.S. Flag Code suggests using bunting, which can be arranged with the blue at the top, white in the middle, and red at the bottom for decorative purposes.

This subtle difference highlights the respect and reverence given to the flag as a national symbol. Let’s delve into why this distinction matters and what alternatives and protocols exist to show your patriotism.

Don Flannery,  
Wilbraham

More basil? Yes, please!

Regular readers of the column will remember just how much pleasure I get out of making and freezing my version of pesto. In other words, pesto without the expensive pine nuts.

We use this spread in the rue for butternut squash lasagna and on pizza in place of marinara sauce. Sadly, we ran out of our frozen “cubes” over a month ago and have had to resort to the store bought tubes of the paste.

They’re okay, but certainly not as tasty as homegrown. I vow I will grow more basil this year. Alas, if only the weather would cooperate.

Read on to learn how to grow, harvest and ultimately turn these flavorful leaves into “summer in an ice cube.”

Over the years I have

found that there are just a few obstacles to growing great basil. Seeds should be planted indoors – rarely will they do well from an outdoor sowing.

Start basil about the same time that tomatoes are sown, in mid to late

March. Basil is particularly cold sensitive, so be sure that all danger of frost has passed before transplanting it into the garden.

As mentioned, we are waiting for the weather to take a turn for the better. Plants will die in a frost, but will languish during rainy days with temperatures in the forties. Hopefully this trend is going to subside soon.

Basil foliage has also been known to burn if planted

outdoors without a period of hardening off. For this reason, gradually get seedlings used to bright sun and wind over the course of a week before planting in the ground. Provide your transplants with fertile, well-drained soil in a sunny spot.

If, over the course of the summer you notice that the leaves are no longer grass-green, but instead are pale or even turning brown, your plants may have a nitrogen deficiency. I usually have had to “top dress” my basil twice after planting, each time with a sprinkling of balanced organic fertilizer and some aged compost.

Usually they green up in a matter of days.

Basil has the insatiable desire to flower. We must “deadhead” or the plant will fulfill its earthly desire to

Please see **GARDEN**, page 13

SOCIAL SECURITY Matters

By Russell Gloor

I’m a retired veteran; why must I pay for Medicare?

Dear Rusty:

I’m a retired Navy veteran, who is going to be turning 65 years old this year.

My question is concerning mandatory Medicare sign-up requirements. Why do I have to sign up for Medicare coverage at 65 when I can’t start collecting full Social Security benefits until I turn 67? My Social Security benefits will not pay for my mandatory Medicare because I can’t start collecting full Social Security benefits until I’m 67.

I currently pay for Medicare and utilize my local Veterans Administration medical facilities and referrals for my healthcare. With me turning 65 and having to wait until I’m 67 for my full Social Security benefits, it just seems unfair that I’ll have to pay out of pocket Medicare monthly expenses for two years. Is there any way to avoid this unfair penalty?

Signed: Retired Navy Vet

Dear Retired Navy Vet:

First, I want to thank you for your military service to our country. Please know that here at the AMAC Foundation we care a lot about our veterans and you may find the “For Veterans” section of

our Foundation website interesting – visit [www.amacfoundation.org](http://www.amacfoundation.org).

Regarding your question, you should be aware that enrolling in Medicare is not mandatory, but there are consequences if you do not enroll when you become eligible, normally at age 65). For one thing, if you are a retired veteran on military TriCare, you will lose your TriCare benefits if you don’t enroll in Medicare when you are eligible.

TriCare requires that you enroll in Medicare when eligible. And, since you are not yet collecting Social Security, you will be required to separately pay the Medicare Part B premium directly to Medicare; they will bill you when you enroll in Medicare. Another potential consequence is that if you do not enroll in Medicare Part B when you are first eligible, you may incur a lifetime late enrollment penalty for enrolling in Part B later.

Something else to keep in mind is that there are two “parts” to Medicare - Part A, which is coverage for inpatient hospitalization services and Part B, which is coverage for outpatient healthcare services – doctors, medical tests,

Please see **SSI**, page 13



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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.

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

Election letters to the editor welcome

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

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

Campaign news

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

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

Life in &

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

# WILBRAHAM HAMPDEN

Wilbraham flags veterans graves ahead of Memorial Day

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



Turley photos by Kristin Rivers  
Patrick Renna, the town's director of Veteran Services, was joined by his predecessor Jered Sasen and his son Damien, Graves Officer Shelley Mutti, members of the Minnechaug Military Community Club and members of Girl Scout Troop 11714 for a Pre-Memorial Day Grave Flagging on May 23. Throughout the morning, the group placed American flags on the graves of veterans at Adams Cemetery, Glendale Cemetery and East Wilbraham Cemetery, honoring those who made the ultimate sacrifice to protect this country.



## Hampden participates in VFW Day of Service

On May 24, the Pat Ledoux VFW Post 9397 participated in the VFW National Day of Service through a parade

route cleanup and the flagging of veterans' graves at Old Hampden Cemetery. For the cleanup, members

and volunteers walked the Memorial Day Parade route in town by picking up trash and parade path preparation, with support via a cruiser from the Hampden Police Department and two golf carts provided by Great Horse Country Club to offer water and relief support

to the walkers. For the flagging, meanwhile, another team joined the Hampden Veterans Services Officer and the Minnechaug Military Community Club to place flags on veterans graves ahead of Memorial Day.

Submitted photos Jered Sasen



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**KofC** from page 1

components of the application include work experience, grade point average and high school,” Wadzinski said.

Wadzinski said Hisgen’s essay “expressed that her inspiration to volunteer and to serve was rooted in her faith as a Catholic,” leading her to volunteer with many groups at the church including Sandwich Making Club, Youth Choir, Youth Group, Summer Bible Camp and singing Christmas carols to first responders.

“Then she’s taken this inspiration and expanded her service work and that spirit of giving back to others, to school--National Honor Society, Drama Club, Music Club, Varsity Track and Field, Cross Country and as well as giving back to our community through Wilbraham Cultural Council, Wilbraham Peach Blossom Festival, Wilbraham United Players, Exit 7 Players, Correspondent for the Wilbraham-Hampden Times,” Wadzinski said. “It is an inspiration to us all how you connect with these different communities and how you’ve given back.”

Hisgen thanked the Knights for their contributions to the community and shared she looks forward to

doing more as she heads to college.

“Thank you so much for all that you do and I look forward to joining more student service organizations and finding new ways to give back wherever I go,” Hisgen said.

Knights Member John Hegarty, who has been part of the Scholarship Committee for several years, introduced Rooney, who is part of the World Care Club, performed many community service projects, a National Honor Society member, secretary for the Above the Influence Club and volunteering through putting flags on veterans graves, the Holyoke Soldier’s Home Ice Cream Social, Lorraine’s Soup Kitchen & Pantry and the Knights’ fundraising dinners.

Rooney, he added, also achieved A+’s, A’s and B+’s in school.

“She is an awardee of the Pride Pin, she got the Outstanding Effort Award and she also got the Leadership Certificate,” Hegarty said. “In addition to all her volunteer efforts and maintaining her grades, she’s also a hostess at the Table N’ Tap 30 hours a week, which is kind of amazing with all of the other things you’re doing, Maddie.”

Rooney said she “was incredibly honored and hum-

bled to be standing here today” to receive the scholarship, thanking the Knights for “believing in young people like me who are trying to make a difference in the world.”

It also serves as a reminder, for her, to continue showing up for others, give back and carry on the values of service, integrity and community.

“As we’re preparing to graduate from Minnechaug Regional High School, I take the next step at Bryant University. I’ve been reflecting on what truly motivates me and I keep coming back to this simple but powerful truth. I’m inspired by the idea that each act of kindness no matter how small contributes to building a strong, more caring community,” Rooney said. “That belief has shaped the way I try to live my life so far, whether it was organizing the Above the Influence group as secretary, serving as a World Care Club member or being part of the National Honor Society. Each experience has shown me that when we are given time and our hearts to others, we create ripples for beyond what we can see.”

Wadzinski introduced Oldread and noted his impact on bringing communities together along with building them.



From the left, Noelle Hisgen, Ryan Oldread and Madeleine Rooney, this year’s Knights of Columbus 10195 scholarship recipients. The scholarship recipients were announced during the Knights’ May 20 meeting.



Turley photos by Kristin Rivers  
**Dr. Thomas Wadzinski, chair of the Knights of Columbus 10195’ Scholarship Committee, announces this year’s recipients.**

“You say, ‘So many of us struggle with where we fit in and how we fit in and it’s incredibly important to me to help reach out to others, help them build their community too,’ and you certainly foster a number of communities kind of along the way through high school,” Wadzinski said. “At church through different youth events, school through your activity on the Student Council, National Honor Society, Varsity Football, Varsity

Volleyball and in helping with these different communities, you help create community, really, around yourself, which is helpful moving forward.”

Oldread, who has been a member of St. Cecilia’s his whole life, reflected on building community and how his actions--as opposed to the titles he’s held--have motivated him.

“Like, just the results of seeing kids here at camp running around and coming up to

me from last year and saying hello again and remembering me or kids helping build scarecrows at Rice’s for our Student Council events, rolling around in hay,” Oldread said. “That’s the stuff that really has always motivated me and driven me to become the leader that I like to think that I am. That goes along with the Knights are and what the Knights stand for and I’m really appreciative for receiving this scholarship and for everything that you guys do.”



Turley photo by Kristin Rivers  
**Kellie Hummel, market manager at Wilbraham Farmers Market, posing at her table during the 2024 Wilbraham Farmers Market. The 2025 season opens on June 18.**

**FARMERS MARKET**  
from page 1

vendors, patrons and community in general that resulted in this change. I think people will enjoy the better parking situation for example,” Hummel said. “That being said, we are very excited to be working with the Scantic Valley YMCA moving forward! Their work towards supporting the community and being family-oriented made them a natural fit as that is also what we want our market to be. We hope that this new location will lead to a better market experience for everyone!”

On what attendees should watch for this year, Hummel shared there’s a lot to look forward to.

“We have added activities for the kids to enjoy this season. There will be face painting every week as well as a visit from a Hampden County therapy dog many of

the weeks. We also teamed up with the Hampden Wilbraham Partners for Youth to expand the Youth Entrepreneur event. We will now have youth vendors every other week! I love seeing the younger kids team up for the summer to create a business or the older kids have their friends come hang out to support them as they bridge the gap between high school and figuring out their business in “the real world,” Hummel said. “Of course, always be on the lookout for fresh local produce, delicious baked goods and a variety of items from our talented artisans.”

Reflecting on her work with the Farmers Market, Hummel expressed gratitude for the opportunity to not only oversee it but also continue to help bring the community together.

“Running the market is a ton of work, but it is definitely all worth it. Getting to walk around the market in June and seeing everything that I’ve been working on since January finally come to life is pretty special. I got to meet so many great people last year and I love getting to watch their businesses grow throughout the season and over the years. There have been several times now where a vendor’s business has shown up in my life completely unrelated to the market which is really fun. One of our previous vendors even has her own storefront now!” Hummel said. “I also enjoy getting to be a vendor with my Wild Roots Farm (formerly Lettuce Beet Farm) alongside running the market. I get to experience both the behind-the-scenes and the effects of any changes I make for vendors firsthand.”

She also emphasized the impact of farmers markets helping community members and attendees connect, creat-

ing new friendships and introducing them to the local artisans in town and surrounding communities.

“I believe local farmers markets are invaluable to the community. They are one of the only places where you get the opportunity to talk with the person who grew your vegetables, baked your bread, made your soap, etc. You can learn about not only everything that went into the product, but also about the person and their family. You become friends with the people you see every week which is a very unique thing in retail,” Hummel said. “The other unique thing is that 100% of what you pay goes to the vendor and can be put towards continuing their business. If you are unable to make it to the market, check out our vendors’ websites and social media pages to see where you can buy directly from them!”

For any vendors looking to apply, Hummel encouraged them to do so.

“We don’t want to miss out on any potential great addition to our market, so we keep our application open all season. Some of our returning vendors joined partway through last season. Our application can be found on our social media pages,” Hummel said.

Hummel encourages the community to stop by throughout the summer, thanking everyone for their continuing support.

“This is only possible with the continued support of the community! They are what make this a truly great event. We can’t wait to see everyone there this summer!” Hummel said.

To learn more, visit the Wilbraham Farmers Market’s Facebook and Instagram pages.

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WILBRAHAM from page 1

“Their legacy is not only one of war, but also of rebuilding, compassion and hope. Our responsibility doesn’t end when the parade stops or the flags are folded. We owe it to the living as well, to the veterans who returned, carrying both visible and invisible wounds. They deserve not just our thanks, but comprehensive care, opportunities, dignity and a future that reflects the depth of their sacrifice. To do anything less is to dishonor the memory of those who did not return,” Renna said.

Oliveira thanked the community for continuing to remember and honor their servicemen, reflecting on his late friend Sgt. Josh DeForge who died during his fourth tour of duty in Afghanistan in 2010.

“As we look at our 250-year history that we’re celebrating next year and we just celebrated the Battles of Lexington and Concord just last month right here in Massachusetts, whether your family was here 250 years ago or came this last week, we all come together on this weekend to pay respect for those families who lost loved ones and to honor those who gave their all for their nation,” Oliveira said.

Oliveira also focused on policies put in by the state to continue supporting Gold Star Families, including how a loophole for Gold Star spouses was closed during the FY26 budget debate.

“In the Commonwealth, prior to the passage of this law, Gold Star spouses were not eligible for the annuity benefit if they remarried after they lost their spouse,” Oliveira said. “We closed that loophole this past week in the legislature because we want to do and make sure that we do everything that we possibly can to honor not just the sacrifice that those families made to make sure that their government stands behind them, and we will continue to do more to make sure that Gold Star Families get the support that they deserve for losing a loved one in defense of our nation.”

Squindo said that Memorial Day “is more than just a date on the calendar, it is a reminder of the cost of freedom and the enduring legacy of courage, duty and love for our country.”

“As we stand beside the flag that they defended, we remember so their sacrifice was not in vain. These heroes gave their lives not only for our safety and security, but also for the ideals that define this great nation: liberty, justice and freedom for all,” Squindo said.

Squindo then listed the freedoms listed in the Constitution, which include freedom of religion, speech, press, assembly and right to petition the government, calling them “our sacred inheritance.”

“Those we remember today died for a country that believes not just in liberty,



Turley photos by Kristin Rivers  
**2023 Veteran of the Year Robert Kelliher, Jr. talks with State Sen. Jake Oliveira (D-Ludlow) after the Memorial Day ceremony in Wilbraham.**



**Pat Serra, president of the Wilbraham Garden Club, presents the Memorial Day Wreath to Patrick Renna, director of Veterans Services.**

but in thoughtful, principled determination,” Squindo said. “On this Memorial Day, let us remember those who gave their lives for the liberties and freedoms we claim each day. Let us honor their actions by recommitting ourselves to the principles they died for, not only in our words today, but in our actions every day. Thank you and may we forever hold our fallen heroes close to our heart.”

Reflecting on his first ceremony since succeeding Jered Sasen, the prior director of Veterans Services, Renna was thrilled with the turnout and support.

“I really felt privileged to speak some words for Memorial Day and couldn’t be happier with how many people showed up and just all of the positive, great attitudes everyone had. Volunteers helping with everything from setup to tear down,” Renna said. “Everyone was great and just really puts a cap on all of the support I got from the community so far, which is wonderful.”

Renna hopes attendees take time to remember and reflect on this Memorial Day.

“Generations before them have gone off to war and have not made it home and it’s because of those sacrifices that we have all the rights and freedoms that we have today,” Renna said.



**State Sen. Jake Oliveira (D-Ludlow) shares Memorial Day reflections.**



**Cody Erskine leads the POW/Missing in Action Presentation on behalf of the Minnechaug Regional High School Military Community Club.**

# Wilbraham & Monson Academy graduates 83



**The Wilbraham & Monson Academy Class of 2025.**

WILBRAHAM - Wilbraham & Monson Academy graduated 83 seniors and postgraduates on May 24 at its 221st Commencement Exercises.

The Class of 2025 hailed from 7 states (Connecticut, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, New York, New Hampshire, New Jersey, Virginia) and 22 countries (Bangladesh, Brazil, China, Czech Republic, India, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Kazakhstan, Republic of Korea, Mexico, Nigeria, United Kingdom, Angola, Russian Federation, Spain, Thailand, Turkey,

Ukraine, United States, Vietnam and Zimbabwe).

The following students graduated from local towns in Western Massachusetts and Connecticut:

- From Belchertown: Kayla Makkiya
- From Brimfield: Ludmilla Venades
- From East Longmeadow: Abigail Brunelle, Ryan Clark, Lauren Garvey, Sophia Najeebi, Regan Zhao
- From Ellington: Rose Marie Sadlak
- From Fiskdale: Ally Orquiola

From Hampden: Jason Foerster, Mark Tobias

From Longmeadow: Emma Landry, Alexander Torres

From Ludlow: Rebecca Kakule, Benjamin Presz

From Somers: Ashley Birkenshaw, Cooper Dwyer

From Springfield: Malena Donovan, Ashley Li, Isabelle Rivera

From Wilbraham: Kayden Chhoun, John Crocker, Seamus Dineen, Mariana Mujica, Oliva Tierney, Breslin Grozio, Katherine Healy, Gabriel Enrico Cruz, Elena Baltazar

## Wilbraham walk turns tragedy into action:

3.3 Miles for Change honors Sima and Dylan Pariseau

WILBRAHAM - The community is invited to participate in the inaugural 3.3 Miles for Change walk, an event honoring the lives of Sima and Dylan Pariseau, and supporting survivors of domestic violence.

The walk will take place on Saturday, June 14 at Fountain Park, 883 Tinkham Road, Wilbraham, MA, with

registration opening at 9 a.m. and the walk commencing at 10 a.m., rain or shine.

Sima, 56, and her 27-year-old son, Dylan, tragically lost their lives on June 16, 2024, in an act of domestic violence. This event aims to honor their memory by raising awareness and funds to support others affected by similar tragedies.

Across the United States, nearly one in two women and more than 2 in 5 men have reported experiencing intimate partner violence at some point in their lives. All proceeds will benefit the YWCA of Western Massachusetts, directly supporting its domestic violence assis-

Please see **WALK**, page 10

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# Hampden's MEMORIAL DAY



Jered Sassen, quartermaster of Hampden's Pat Ledoux VFW Post.



Rev. Mark Stelzer brought his dog, Maggie, to the parade.



The Minnechaug Regional High School band marches up Main Street.



Hudson and Blake Rogers of Hampden watch the parade with their mother, Faith Przybycien.



The Hampden Police Department distributed free hot dogs.

## HAMPDEN from page 1

families gathered beneath the World War I Monument on the village green. "It feels like a Lifetime movie here today," Jered S. Sassen, quartermaster of Hampden's Pat Ledoux VFW Post, spoke about the significance of Memorial Day. Sassen, a Navy veteran, is a national service officer for the Executive Office of Veterans Services.

"I've seen first-hand the power of this day, the weight of this day and the importance of this day....It's a day etched in blood, forged in sacrifice and hallowed by the memory of heroes. It's a day to walk among the rows of white stones in our national cemeteries to read the names etched in granite and to feel the profound absence of those who should be standing with us here today," Sassen said.

Sassen closed his remarks saying: "Remember our nation's heroes and their sacrifices. Remember their legacy and the families they left be-

hind. And let us resolve together to live lives worthy of their sacrifice, to build a nation worthy of their devotion and to ensure that their memories live on forever."

Following Sassen, the Girls Scouts led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance and released memorial flowers in the Scantic River. Rev. Mark Stelzer of Hampden's St. Mary's Church delivered an invocation and The Minnechaug Regional High School choir sang "The Star Spangled Banner."

Hampden Selectboard Chair Don Davenport also addressed the crowd.

"Our gathering is not a lot but is one small way we can honor those who have made the ultimate sacrifice so that we may live in freedom. Your presence here today—all of you—and that of the people gathering all across America is a tribute to those lost troops and their families," Davenport said.

Cody Erskine of Minnechaug's Military Community Club and Pastor Skip Gunn of Hampden's LifeStream Church paid homage to fallen soldiers as well as POWs and MIAs.

The ceremony concluded with the laying of a wreath presented by the Hampden Garden Club, a gun salute by six VFW members and the playing of Taps.

Following the ceremony, Heath Joseph, commander of Hampden's VFW Post, who served in Afghanistan and Iraq, said: "I've had some friends of mine who didn't come home so I get to remember them today—I remember them every day, but this day is special."

He added, "We had a great turnout. The town of Hampden has always been very supportive of what we do at the VFW."

After the ceremony, many



Brian and Jennifer Wood of Hampden with their children.

in the crowd lined up for free hot dogs and ice cream.

The Hampden Fire Department grilled 70 pounds of hot dogs, donated by Hampden's Village Food Mart, while the Hampden Police Department purchased 503 ice cream cups to distribute to the crowd.

The day was bittersweet for Hampden Chief of Police Scott Trombly. After 31 years on the force, he will retire in July.

Although looking forward to more free time and time for his family, he said, "I have mixed emotions. I love our community and the people in it."

By noon, bake sale goods were half off and the Hampden Garden Club's many sale tables were nearly empty.

Garden Club President Lil Fedora said the club will use the proceeds from the sale to plant trees in Hampden, support scholarships and fund another tradition—planting daffodils around town. Over the years, club members have planted well over 10,000 bulbs in Hampden.

As the crowd dispersed, Hampden Selectboard Member John Flynn walked home with pumpkin bread and chocolate chip cookies to bring to the next day's Selectboard meeting.

"I remember watching the parade as a child in the early sixties," Flynn said. "This was the biggest crowd in years. We had a range of ages and perfect weather. It was really wonderful to see so many people come out today."

## Hampden Community Garden accepting plot reservations

HAMPDEN - Hampden Community Garden is now accepting plot reservations for 2025. The 20'x20' plots are tilled, staked, and ready for your flower and vegetable seeds and plants. For the \$20 fee, gardeners will enjoy having water and hoses on site, ample parking and easy access.

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

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

please recycle this newspaper

## WALK from page 9

tance and awareness programs.

Sophie Pariseau, Sima's daughter and Dylan's sister, is hopeful the event will raise awareness and help other families.

"This walk is my way of standing up, not just for my mom and brother, but for every family, every survivor, and every victim who has not yet found their voice, and every life we still have the power to protect," said Sophie Pariseau. "I am not naive enough to think that we can change the landscape of domestic violence, but I do know that by coming together, raising awareness, and sharing Sima and Dylan's story, we might help even just a few find a way out, or avoid the

heartbreak that my family has faced. My hope is that this walk becomes and is remembered as a symbol of hope, support, and change in our community."

Event Details:  
Date: Saturday, June 14, 2025  
Time: Registration at 9 a.m.; Walk begins at 10 a.m.  
Location: Fountain Park, 883 Tinkham Road, Wilbraham, MA  
Distance: 3.3 miles  
Registration Fees: Individual Participant: \$33  
Children 12 and Under: \$12  
Fenway's Friends (Dog Registration): \$10  
Donation Only: Any amount  
The 3.3-mile distance and \$33 registration fee hold special significance, representing Dylan's beloved baseball jersey number, 33. This symbolic ges-

ture underscores the personal connection and the community's commitment to honoring his legacy.

Participants will receive an exclusive 3.3 Miles for Change T-shirt, with the first 500 registrants guaranteed a shirt. Additionally, the first 100 dog registrants will receive a special 3.3 Miles for Change dog bandana.

Attendees are encouraged to stay after the walk for a community raffle, with both cash and Venmo accepted for participation.

By joining the 3.3 Miles for Change Walk, participants contribute to a cause that extends beyond remembrance. The event seeks to provide crucial support to survivors of domestic violence and to raise awareness about the

pervasive issue affecting countless individuals and families.

**About the YWCA of Western Massachusetts:**  
The YWCA of Western Massachusetts is dedicated to eliminating racism, empowering women, and promoting peace, justice, freedom, and dignity for all. Their domestic violence programs offer shelter, counseling, and advocacy services to individuals and families in need.

Registration and Donations:  
To register for the walk or to make a donation, please visit: <https://milesforchange.redpodium.com/33-miles-for-change>

For more information, media inquiries, or general questions, please contact Sophie Pariseau at [3.3milesforchange@gmail.com](mailto:3.3milesforchange@gmail.com).

# SPORTS

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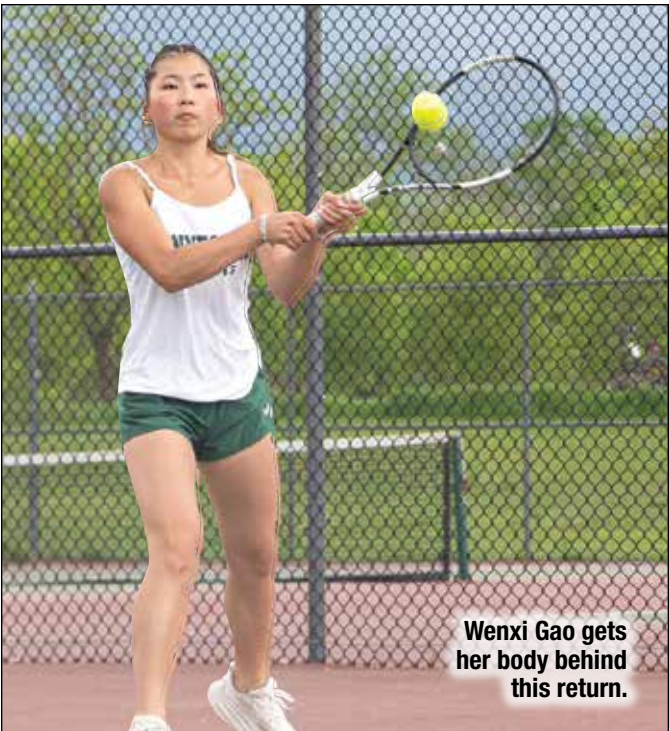
Ainsley Holden is focused on her return hit.



Chloe Robinson gets an underhand hit.



Ava Croteau turns the ball across the court.



Wenxi Gao gets her body behind this return.

Turley photos by Sofia DiGrande



Ellie Gaudreau winds up for a big backhand.

## Falcons close regular season

WILBRAHAM — Recently, Minnechaug Regional High School girls tennis had its final home match against East Longmeadow. The Falcons were defeated 4-1, and also lost their final two regular season matches to West Springfield and Granby. The Falcons entered the state tournament last week, finishing in the top 32 in the state despite a 4-13 record.

## Falcons shut out by Cardinals in WMass title game

By Tim Peterson  
Sports Correspondent

HOLYOKE — Not many people probably thought that Minnechaug Regional would be one of the baseball teams playing in this year’s Western Mass. Class A championship game.

The sixth-seeded Falcons advanced into the finals where they battled top-seeded Pope Francis in an old fashion pitcher’s duel.

The contest was scoreless until the bottom of the sixth inning when the Cardinals plated three runs leading to a 3-0 victory at Mackenzie Stadium in Holyoke, last Tuesday night.

“It was a great high school baseball game tonight,” said Minnechaug head coach Mike Netkovick. “They scored a couple of runs in the sixth and we couldn’t capitalize on our chances. We’ve played a lot of baseball during the past ten days.”

It was the Falcons first trip to the Western Mass. championship game since they lost to Taconic in the Western Mass. Division 1 finals in 2017.

The Falcons, who entered the 2025 Division 2 state tournament with a 12-8 record, faced the third-seeded Westfield Bombers in the quarterfinals of the Class A tournament.

It started to rain prior to the start of the quarterfinal game, which was played on May 23 at Bullens Field in Westfield.

Minnechaug scored five runs with the help of several wild pitches in the top of the first inning before the umpires decided to suspend the game. The Falcons players made another trip to Westfield two days later where they celebrated an 8-0 victory.

“Having a five run lead when we resumed the quarterfinal game did give us some breathing room,” Netkovick said. “The players are always a little bit nervous in the first postseason game of the year.”

The winning pitcher in the quarterfinal game was junior Evan Liverseidge, who allowed only four base hits in six innings. Junior Ian Angelica pitched the final inning.

Because seventh seeded Agawam upset second-seeded Springfield Central, 5-0, in the quarterfinals, the Falcons faced the Brownies in the semifinals at home on Memorial Day.

“We weren’t expecting to play a home game in the Western Mass. tournament,” Netkovick added. “Things worked out in our favor and it’s always nice to play a tournament game at home.”

The Falcons squeaked out a 4-2 win in that game. Sophomore Sam Przybyl, who went the distance, was the winning pitcher in the semifinal victory. He

## After pair of big wins, Pioneers draw in home opener

By Tim Peterson  
Sports Correspondent

LUDLOW—Putting the ball into the back of the net wasn’t a major issue for the Western Mass. Pioneers in their first two regular season matches.

The Pioneers, who outscored Boston City and the Albany Rush, 15-0, on the road, played a 1-1 draw against the Seacoast United Phantoms in the home opener at historic Lusitano Stadium on May 23.

“I thought it was a very good game tonight,” said longtime Pioneers head coach Federico Molinari. “Seacoast won the championship last year and they’re a very good team again this year. They defended very well against us. We did play much better during the second half than we did in the first half.”

The Pioneers first home match was played on a miser-

able night weatherwise.

Eleven different players scored a goal in the Pioneers’ first two road matches.

Israel Neto led the way offensively with three goals. Matt Cence and Robbie Lyons both scored two goals. The other goals for the Pioneers were scored by Oskar Kaufmann, Aiden Kelly, Austin Bush, Jose Suarez, Jose Bustamante, Gustavo Barbosa, and Mamadi Jiana, who’s a former member of the Chicopee boys’ soccer team.

The Phantoms (0-1-1), who are the defending USL League Two National champions, had won the previous three matchups between the two rivals held at Lusitano Stadium.

The home team had an opportunity to take an early lead, but a breakaway opportunity by Kaufmann in the second minute of the match was saved by Seacoast goalie Jahn Tobias.

With 15 minutes remain-

ing in the first half, Tobias made a diving save on another shot attempt from Kaufmann.

Down at the other end of the field, Western Mass. goalie Cameron Hall also made a couple of key saves, which kept the contest scoreless until the second half.

The Phantoms also had nine corner kicks during the first 45 minutes.

Early in the second half, the referee awarded the Phantoms a penalty kick following a foul inside the box.

Hall, who posted shutouts in the first two matches, made a diving save on the shot taken by Taig Healy. The ball was deflected away by Hall, but Healy was in the right spot to knock home the rebound shot giving the visiting team a 1-0 advantage.

The Pioneers scored the equalizer a little more than

Please see **PIONEERS**,  
page 12



Santiago Blasco Gomez balances the ball.



Mamadi Jiana advances up the field.



Jaiden Williams sets for a throw-in.



Israel Neto looks to clear the ball away.

Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com

Please see **FALCONS**,  
page 12

SPORTS

# Hall series coming to TD Garden

BOSTON – Position Sports, in partnership with the Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame, announced that projected preseason Top 10 teams UConn and BYU will meet in the Hall of Fame Series Boston event on Saturday, Nov. 15, at TD Garden. This marks just the second meeting between the programs, with the Huskies defeating the Cougars in the first matchup during the opening round of the 2003 NCAA Tournament.

“We’re thrilled to establish TD Garden as our newest Hall of Fame Series venue, creating a basketball showcase in the heart of New England, just a short journey from our home in Springfield,” said John L. Doleva, President and CEO of the Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame. “The

matchup between UConn and BYU brings together one of the sport’s premier programs and one of its most exciting up-and-coming teams, led by a local talent in AJ Dybantsa. This event not only highlights elite college basketball but also reinforces our ongoing relationship with the Boston Celtics and our shared commitment to celebrating the game’s rich history in the region.”

This will be UConn’s second appearance in the Hall of Fame Series, following a win over Gonzaga at Madison Square Garden last December. The Huskies are led by two-time National Champion Alex Karaban, who hails from Southborough, Mass. BYU, featuring Brockton, Mass., product and consensus No. 1

incoming recruit A.J. Dybansta, is also set to participate in the Hall of Fame Series Las Vegas event on Opening Night, Nov. 3.

“Bringing the Hall of Fame Series to Boston for the first time is an exciting milestone, especially just down the road from the Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame in Springfield,” said Melissa Meacham-Grossman, President of Position Sports. “UConn’s championship legacy and BYU’s emerging star power—highlighted by Massachusetts’ own A.J. Dybansta—set the stage for a memorable night at TD Garden, in a city where the game’s history runs deep, thanks to the tradition of the Boston Celtics and the legacy of their many Hall of Famers.”

Further details regarding

ticketing, game times, broadcast details, and media credentials for the event will be shared at a later date.

The Hall of Fame Series, owned and operated by Position Sports, is a premier collection of multi-game, singular events that feature top collegiate basketball programs in high-profile non-conference matchups played both domestically and abroad. Past stops have included the following cities: Baltimore (2024), Charlotte (2023), Las Vegas (2023-24), New York (2024), Phoenix (2023-24), San Antonio (2023), and Toronto (2023).

For more Hall of Fame Series information and updates, please visit [HOFSeries.com](https://HOFSeries.com) or follow @HOFSeries on all social platforms.

# T-Birds announce home opener for 10th season

SPRINGFIELD – The Springfield Thunderbirds announced six guaranteed home game dates at the MassMutual Center for the 2025-26 season.

The franchise will kick off its 10th Anniversary celebration on Saturday, Oct. 11 for Opening Night. Additionally, the following dates will be on the home ice schedule next season:

- Friday, Nov. 7
- Saturday, Dec. 6
- Saturday, Jan. 10
- Saturday, Feb. 21
- Saturday, March 7

Promotional information and opponents for these nights, as well as the rest of the 2025-26 season sched-

ule, will be unveiled later this summer. Stay tuned for more information on what promises to be a historic 10th year for the Thunderbirds franchise.

The 2024-25 regular season may be over, but the Thunderbirds’ front office staff and Boomer will remain as active as ever in the Springfield community throughout the late Spring and Summer. For more information on upcoming events, stay tuned to the T-Birds on social media @ThunderbirdsAHL, or visit the Community Tab on [www.SpringfieldThunderbirds.com](https://www.SpringfieldThunderbirds.com).

# New exhibit opens at Volleyball Hall

HOLYOKE – There’s never been a better time to visit the International Volleyball Hall of Fame. As we gear up for the 2025 Induction Ceremony this October, we’re unveiling a series of exciting new exhibits that celebrate the global spirit and rich history of our sport.



Reimagined Beach Volleyball Exhibit

Get a fresh look at the sand-side of the sport with a dynamic update to our Beach Volleyball exhibit—featuring new stories, legendary players, and Olympic highlights that defined eras.

Whether you’re stopping by this summer or joining us in October for Induction Weekend, don’t miss these powerful additions to the Hall experience. They’re more than exhibits—they’re celebrations of the game we all love.

Plan your visit today—and make history part of your journey.



Turley photo by David Henry [www.sweetdogphotos.com](https://www.sweetdogphotos.com)  
Cameron Hall, Pioneers goalie, sends a free kick away.

**PIONEERS** from page 11

ten minutes later.

The scoring play began with Suarez sending a crossing pass from the left side of the penalty area to Kaufmann, who fired a shot into the lower right corner of the net.

Neither team was able to score another goal during the last 30 minutes of regulation.

**FALCONS** from page 11

allowed two runs on seven hits with nine strikeouts and only two walks.

“Sam pitched an outstanding game in the semifinals,” Netkovick said. “He pitched seven innings and only allowed a couple of hits.”

Senior shortstop Bryce Barlow led the offense against the Brownies with two hits and a pair of RBIs.

Senior right-hander Ethan Purcell, who’s the Falcons ace, was the Falcons starting pitcher in the championship game. He hooked up with Pope Francis senior lefty Jackson Petrin.

Purcell, who’ll be playing college baseball at Wentworth, allowed three runs on four hits with two walks and five strikeouts against the Cardinals (16-5) in the Class A finals.

“Ethan has had many outstanding performances on the mound during the past three years,” Netkovick said. “He did exactly what we needed him to do in tonight’s game. The guy’s love playing behind him.”

Both pitchers threw the ball well.”

The Cardinals, who took home the Class A championship trophy for the first time, had a batter reach first base with two outs in each of the first three frames.

Petrin, who’ll be playing college baseball at UMass Dartmouth, allowed two hits and only issued one walk. He had seven strikeouts.

Petrin retired the first nine batters that he faced before Barlow lined a single over the first baseman into right field leading off the top of the fourth. He was then thrown out trying to steal second base by senior catcher Mick Burns.

Senior second baseman Ben Daniels kept the fourth inning alive by drawing a two-out walk. The next bat-

ter hit a pop-up caught by junior first baseman Andrew Gagne on the mound for the final out.

The other seniors listed on the Falcons roster are Aaron Gasteyer, Joe Smith, Paul Diehl, and Aiden Rodrigues.

“The senior class are a very special group of baseball players,” Netkovick said. “I wish that we could’ve had a better result for them in tonight’s game, but they’ve battled hard all season long.”

With two outs in the top of the sixth, Barlow blasted a triple to the gap in right center. He was stranded there as junior catcher Alex Savlick hit a flyball to center ending the threat.

“Alex hit the ball well, but it just couldn’t find any grass,” Netkovick said. “We didn’t have very many base hits tonight.”

Following back-to-back singles in the bottom half of the frame, Gagne delivered an RBI single to rightfield which scored the game’s first run. The Cardinals’ other two runs scored on sacrifice flies from junior second baseman Mark Jodoin and Burns.

Petrin retired the side in order in the top of the seventh inning before being mobbed by his teammates on the mound.

The Falcons, who entered the state tournament as the 29th seed, postseason journey continued with a 1-0 home shutout victory over 36th seeded Lynn Classical in a Division 2 preliminary round game.

Liverseidge, who gave up just three hits in seven innings, won his second postseason game.

The Falcons were scheduled to face fourth-seeded Walpole on the road in the round of 32 game on Monday afternoon.

# Follow Turley Sports on Instagram

Turley Publications sports department has recently joined Instagram. You can find our account by searching “turleysports.” We will regularly feature samples of photos that you will see in our publications on a weekly basis. Please follow and share with your friends and loved ones. We will be featuring photos from all 11 of our sports sections, but as always, you can see all the photos that appear by subscribing to your local paper or picking up a copy in your community.

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CLUES ACROSS

1. Marsh plant

6. Southern constellation ("The Peacock")

10. Fogginess

14. Home to Fools' Day

15. Absence of the sense of pain

17. Popular November holiday

19. Consume food

20. Buddy

21. Long-haired goat-antelope

22. Japanese honorific

23. Actor Malek

24. One point south of southeast

26. Illegal acts

29. As fast as can be done

31. Prevents harm to young

32. Exclamation of satisfaction

34. African nation

35. Slow-moving animal

37. Oh, goodness!

38. A team's best pitcher

39. Cleanser

40. Radioactivity units

41. Expectorated matter

1. Satisfy

2. European health advocate

3. Expression of annoyance

4. Strong liquor

5. Large red deer

6. Holder of less common religious beliefs

7. West Indian shrub

8. Family of proteins

9. Wealthy, influential business leader

10. Low spirits

11. Approves food

12. Monetary unit of Iran and Oman

13. Mary \_\_, cosmetics

16. Expressed in pithy maxims

18. Relaxing spaces

22. The NFL's big game

23. Proof of payment (abbr.)

24. Starchy preparation of dried orchid tubers

25. Indicates near

27. Minneapolis suburb

28. Herring-like fish

29. Doctors' group

30. Pouches

31. Bread dipping in sauce

33. Commercials

35. A reminder of past events

36. Affected by injury

37. Geological time

39. Stationary part of a motor

42. Brings together

43. Of sound mind

44. Personal computer

46. Without (French)

47. A bank might give you one

48. Agricultural testing organization

49. A small island

50. Type of gene

51. Murres

52. Card game

53. A measure of human health

54. Australian airline (abbr.)

55. One point south of due west

56. Affirmative

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# Book Sale takes place June 13-14

HAMPDEN - To benefit The Friends of The Hampden Senior Citizens and also The Friends of the Hampden Free Public Library, a HUGE Book Sale will take place on Friday, June 13 and Saturday June 14 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

This event will be held at 24 Greenleaf Drive in Hampden. There will be more than a thousand books to choose from and there are books by all kinds of authors.

Prices will be \$1 for hardcover and 50 cents for paperback. If anyone has any questions, please contact Joan Shea at 413-566-8224, a member of both boards.



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HELP WANTED

**PANTRY COORDINATOR** for Community Survival Center in Indian Orchard. Application available at **www.communitysurvivalcenter.org**  
Must be able to lift 40 pounds and stand for extended periods of time. Four-day work week; 34-hours/week; Pays \$17.50/hour


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37	Base Price \$34.50	38	Base Price \$35.00
39	Base Price \$35.50	40	Base Price \$36.00

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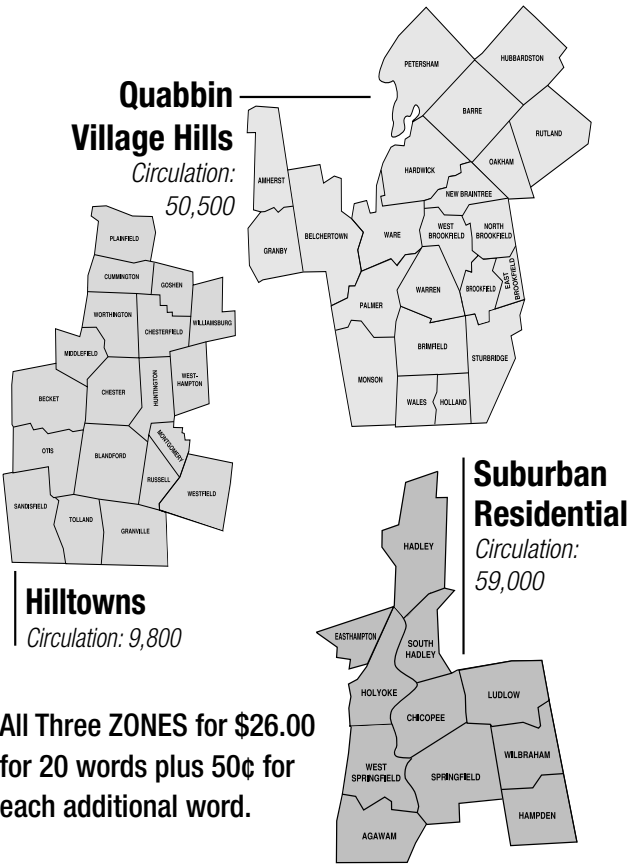
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PUBLIC NOTICES

**TOWN OF WILBRAHAM  
PUBLIC HEARING:  
PROPOSED INCREASE TO WATER RATES**  
The Wilbraham Board of Water Commissioners, will hold an open public hearing on **July 18, 2025 at 9:15 a.m.**, at the Town Office Building, 240 Springfield St, Wilbraham, MA to hear public comment on the proposed increase to water rates, as recommended by the Water Commissioners, to be effective November 2025.

**CURRENT WATER RATES**  
\$4.12 Commercial Rate  
\$4.12 0-10,000 Cubic Feet (Single Family Home Residential)  
\$4.32 10,001-20,000 Cubic Feet (Single Family Home Residential)  
\$4.52 20,0001 Cubic Feet and Greater (Single Family Home Residential)

**PROPOSED WATER RATES**  
\$4.80 Commercial Rate  
\$4.80 0-10,000 Cubic Feet (Single Family Home Residential)  
\$5.25 10,001-20,000 Cubic Feet (Single Family Home Residential)  
\$5.50 20,0001 Cubic feet and Greater (Single Family Home Residential)

All those wishing to comment on the proposed updated water rates will be heard. This hearing will be conducted in person only.  
Board of Water Commissioners  
05/29, 06/05, 06/12, 06/19, 06/26/2025

**WILBRAHAM  
BOARD OF APPEALS  
PUBLIC HEARING**  
The Wilbraham Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a Public Hearing on **Thursday, June 12, 2025 at 5:30 PM** on the application of Aja Miller for a special permit (ZBA25-03) under section 3.9.2.13 of the Wilbraham Zoning By to allow a dog grooming business as a Home Occupation in the existing detached garage on property owned by Aja Miller and Christopher Mish located at 15 Old Boston Road as further specified in the application on file in the Planning Office and posted for public viewing on the Zoning Board of Appeals page of the Town of Wilbraham website at [www.wilbraham-ma.gov/135/Zoning-Board-of-Appeals](http://www.wilbraham-ma.gov/135/Zoning-Board-of-Appeals).  
**Both in person and virtual participation are available.** To participate virtually go to <https://meet.goto.com/266700965> or call 877-309-2073 (Access Code: 266-700-965).  
Edward Kivari Jr., Chairman  
05/29, 06/05/2025

**TOWN OF WILBRAHAM  
PUBLIC HEARING  
TO CONSIDER AN  
APPLICATION FOR  
STORAGE OF  
FLAMMABLE AND  
COMBUSTIBLE LIQUIDS,  
FLAMMABLE GASES AND  
SOLIDS LICENSE**  
Notice is hereby given under Chapter 148 of the Massachusetts General Laws, that a public

hearing will be held at the Town Office Building, Select Board's Meeting Room, 240 Springfield Street, Wilbraham, on **Monday, June 16, 2025, at 7:10pm** on the application of 120 Old Boston Road Recycling Company, LLC, the petitioner and land owner with a business operating at 120 Old Boston Road, Wilbraham, MA 01095 (Parcel ID 3630), for an amendment to its license to store Flammable and Combustible Liquids, Solids and Gases at the named property location. A listing of the materials and quantities to be licensed are available by mail or in person, at the Select Board's Office, 240 Springfield Street, Wilbraham, MA 01095; Monday-Friday from 8:30am to 4:30pm. Anyone wishing to comment on the proposed application will be heard. In person and virtual meeting participation is available to the public.  
06/05/2025

**WILBRAHAM  
BOARD OF APPEALS  
PUBLIC HEARING**  
The Wilbraham Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a Public Hearing on **Thursday, June 12, 2025 at 5:45 PM** on the application of 2632 Boston Road, LLC (property owner), for a special permit to allow construction of a 4,900 square foot addition to the existing structure at 2632 Boston Road and to use the entire structure for medical offices pursuant to section 3.4.5.1C of the Wilbraham Zoning By-Law as further

specified in the application on file in the Planning Office and posted for public viewing on the Zoning Board of Appeals page of the Town of Wilbraham website at [www.wilbraham-ma.gov/135/Zoning-Board-of-Appeals](http://www.wilbraham-ma.gov/135/Zoning-Board-of-Appeals).  
**Both in person and virtual participation are available.** To participate virtually go to <https://meet.goto.com/266700965> or call 877-309-2073 (Access Code: 266-700-965).  
Edward Kivari Jr., Chairman  
05/29, 06/05/2025

**Commonwealth of  
Massachusetts  
The Trial Court  
Probate and Family Court  
Hampden Probate  
and Family Court  
50 State Street  
Springfield, MA 01103  
(413)748-7758  
Docket No.  
HD25P1117EA  
Estate of:  
Adam John Basch  
Date of Death: 05/04/2025  
CITATION ON PETITION  
FOR FORMAL  
ADJUDICATION**  
To all interested persons:  
A Petition for **Formal Adjudication of Intestacy** has been filed by **Brie Basch Patch of Sudbury, 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: **Brie Basch Patch of Sudbury, 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 06/24/2025. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.**  
**UNSUPERVISED  
ADMINISTRATION  
UNDER THE  
MASSACHUSETTS  
UNIFORM PROBATE  
CODE (MUPC)**

**A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.**  
WITNESS, Hon. **Barbara M Hyland**, First Justice of this Court.  
Date: May 27, 2025  
**Rosemary A Saccomani**,  
Register of Probate  
06/05/2025

**Commonwealth of  
Massachusetts  
The Trial Court  
Probate and Family Court  
Hampden Probate and  
Family Court  
50 State Street  
Springfield, MA 01103  
Docket No.  
HD25P1104GD  
In the matter of:  
Ana Irma Martinez  
Of: Hampden, MA  
RESPONDENT  
Alleged Incapacitated Person  
CITATION GIVING NOTICE  
OF PETITION FOR  
APPOINTMENT OF  
GUARDIAN FOR  
INCAPACITATED  
PERSON PURSUANT TO  
G.L. c. 190B, §5-304**  
To the named Respondent and all other interested persons, a petition has been filed by **Ana I Romero** of Springfield, MA in the above captioned matter alleging that **Ana Irma Martinez** is in need of a Guardian and requesting that **Ana I Romero** of Springfield, MA (or some other suitable person) be appointed as Guardian to serve **Without Surety** on the bond.  
The petition asks the court to determine that the Respondent is incapacitated, that the appointment of a Guardian is necessary, and that the proposed Guardian is appropriate. The petition is on file with this court and may contain a request for certain specific authority.  
**You have the right to object to this proceeding.** If you wish to do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance at this court on or before 10:00 a.m. on the return date of **06/26/2025**.  
This day is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline date by which you have to file the writ-

ten appearance if you object to the petition. If you fail to file the written appearance by the return date, action may be taken in this matter without further notice to you. In addition to filing the written appearance, you or your attorney must file a written affidavit stating the specific facts and grounds of your objection within 30 days after the return date.  
**IMPORTANT NOTICE**  
**The outcome of this proceeding may limit or completely take away the above-named person's right to make decisions about personal affairs or financial affairs or both. The above-named person has the right to ask for a lawyer. Anyone may make this request on behalf of the above-named person. If the above-named person cannot afford a lawyer, one may be appointed at State expense.**  
WITNESS, Hon. **Barbara M. Hyland**, First Justice of this Court.  
Date: May 22, 2025  
**Rosemary A. Saccomani**  
Register of Probate  
06/05/2025

**Sale of Motor Vehicles**  
This ad is pursuant to MA Gen. Law Ch.255, Sec. 39A as of **June 13, 2025** the following motor vehicle will be for sale to satisfy a garage keepers lien:  
2005 Chevy Trailblazer  
VIN: 1GNDT357252150461  
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LKO: Taysha Pabin-Sustre  
22 Lessey St.  
Amherst, MA 01002  
2002 Chevy Avalanche  
VIN: 3GNEK13T52G170856  
Color: Orange  
LKO: Jonathan Medina  
62 Draper St.  
Springfield, MA 01108

R & S Assoc. Inc  
PO Box 543  
Wilbraham MA 01095  
413-596-4374  
05/29, 06/05, 06/12/2025  
**Wilbraham  
Conservation Commission  
Notice of Public Hearing**  
The Wilbraham Conservation Commission will hold a public hearing on **Monday, June 16, 2025 at 6:30PM** in Conference Room 1 at the Wilbraham Town Hall, 240 Springfield Street, on the Notice of Intent filed by 2632 Boston Road, LLC under the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act and the Wilbraham Wetlands Bylaw. The proposed project includes the construction of a building addition with associated site improvements. Portions of the work fall within the 100-foot Bordering Vegetated Wetland buffer zone to the Bank of Spectacle Pond. The property is located at 2632 Boston Road. Information relating to this application is on file with the Conservation Commission.  
Christopher Brown, Chairman  
06/05/2025

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

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STATUS	ADDRESS	DESCRIPTION	LIST PRICE	SOLD PRICE
NEW	98 Town Farm Rd, Monson	11 room, 5 bed, 3f 0h bath Contemporary	\$619,900	
ACT	12 Federal St. Extension, Agawam	8 room, 3 bed, 1f 1h bath Dutch Colonial	\$465,000	
ACT	26 S. Main St. Belchertown	22 room, 9 bed, 4f 0h bath Victorian, Other	\$739,999	
ACT	2 Anna Marie Lane, E. Longmeadow	8 room, 4 bed, 2f, 1h bath Colonial	\$849,900	
ACT	313 Bennett Rd., Hampden	7 room, 3 bed, 2f, 1h bath Cape	\$510,000	
PCG	302 West Allen Ridge Rd., Springfield	6 room, 4 bed, 2f 0h bath Ranch	\$309,000	
UAG	143 Gardens Dr., Springfield	6 room, 4 bed, 1f 0h bath Cape	\$314,900	
UAG	59 Chalmers St., Springfield	6 room, 3 bed, 1f 1h bath Cape	\$335,000	
UAG	21 Mountainbrook Rd., Wilbraham	7 room, 4 bed, 2f, 0h bath Colonial	\$460,999	
UAG	4 Mark Twain Dr., Wilbraham	9 room, 4 bed, 2f 2h bath Colonial	\$599,900	
SLD	28 Dover St., Agawam	5 room, 3 bed, 1f 0h bath Ranch	\$314,900	\$310,000
SLD	90 Angela Dr., Chicopee	7 room, 3 bed, 2f 1h bath Colonial	\$475,000	\$500,000
SLD	287 Allen St., East Longmeadow	5 room, 3 bed, 1f 0h bath Ranch	\$339,900	\$350,000
SLD	34 Stony Hill Rd., Hampden	7 room, 3 bed, 1f 0h bath Ranch	\$309,900	\$309,900
SLD	129 Stafford Rd., Monson	6 room, 3 bed, 1f 0h bath Cape	\$295,000	\$306,000
SLD	84 Cote Rd., Monson	7 room, 3 bed, 2f 0h bath Colonial	\$359,999	\$315,000
SLD	27 Jordan St., Springfield	5 room, 3 bed, 1f 0h bath Ranch	\$229,900	\$240,000
SLD	117 Monrovia St., Springfield	6 room, 4 bed, 1f, 1h bath Cape	\$289,900	\$295,900
SLD	170 Blanche St., Springfield	6 room, 3 bed, 1f, 1h bath Ranch	\$364,900	\$365,000
SLD	27 Oakland St., Wilbraham	8 room, 4 bed, 2f, 1h bath Colonial	\$489,900	\$479,380

MULTI FAMILY LISTINGS

ACT	26 S. Main St. Belchertown	3 unit, 22 total rooms, 9 total bedrooms 3 Family	\$739,999
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LAND LISTINGS

ACT	454 Ridge Rd., Wilbraham	1.78 Residential acres (77,555 SqFt)	\$218,000
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JUNE 18 | WEDNESDAY

1:00PM - 3:00PM

FOR GRADES K- 5

WILBRHAM AND HAMPDEN RESIDENTS

MEET YOUR FIRST RESPONDERS

POPCORN & ICE CREAM

SUMMER SAFETY TIPS

MUSIC & RAFFLES

INFLATABLE WATER SLIDES

PRE-REGISTER FOR FASTER ENTRY DAY OF  
PLEASE BRING CONFIRMATION EMAIL TO SHOW  
AT ENTRY



ADULT SUPERVISION IS REQUIRED. BATHING SUIT AND TOWEL RECOMMENDED.